

From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with cancer



Cancer has a significant impact on individuals, health systems, and economies:

There are more than **19 million** new cases of cancer each year.²

Nearly **1 in 6 deaths** worldwide are due to cancer, equating to approximately **10 million deaths** each year.¹

Cancer is projected to cost the global economy **USD 25.2 trillion** between 2020 and 2050.³



Respiratory infections pose a higher risk for people living with cancer:

People living with cancer are at **higher risk of hospitalization or death** from COVID-19 than those living without cancer.⁴

People with cancer are at **greater risk of severe influenza**, and that risk may remain elevated up to **five years after** their cancer diagnosis and treatment.⁵

Respiratory infections can require **treatment to be delayed** until the person is strong enough to continue, during which time their **cancer may worsen**.⁶



Immunization can help protect people living with cancer:

The COVID-19 vaccine **reduces the risk** of people living with cancer being infected.⁷

The influenza vaccine can **protect people** living with and being treated for cancer from influenza-related complications.⁸

Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells grow rapidly beyond their usual boundaries; it can affect any part of the body.¹ Cancerous cells can spread to other organs in a process called metastasis, which is the primary cause of cancer-related deaths.¹

This document is one of four disease-specific infographics that accompany *From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with non-communicable diseases*, a policy report initiated and funded by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA). The Health Policy Partnership (HPP) led the research and drafting of the project outputs with insights from expert contributors.



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Immunization against respiratory infections can mitigate the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer. These four policy priorities are a path to protect people, health systems, and economies:



Enable innovation

Ensure immunization is at the core of essential NCD care by embedding it into NCD care pathways, and by using innovative outreach and delivery models.



Mobilize investment

Ensure efficient allocation of existing prevention budgets to expand data-driven investment in immunizations for adults living with NCDs.



Drive implementation

Build awareness of the importance of immunization among people living with NCDs by providing clear, trusted information. Prepare healthcare professionals to provide consistent and proactive messaging on vaccinations. Ensure people with NCDs have access to immunization.



Ensure accountability

Establish good governance of immunization programs, and embed indicators on immunization in national NCD frameworks. Use integrated data systems to monitor progress and support data-sharing across care settings.

Please cite as: Whicher C, Tate J. 2025. *From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with cancer*. Geneva: International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations

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