



MEDIA RELEASE

Immunization Protects Our World

For Immediate Release

OTTAWA – April 20, 2012 – During National Immunization Awareness Week (NIAW), April 21 to 28, 2012, the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP) reminds Canadians – of all ages – of the importance of immunizations for them and the world around them.

Canada is part of a bigger group of countries celebrating the success of immunizations across the globe. For the first time in the world's history, more than 180 World Health Organization (WHO) member states, territories and areas will celebrate the millions of lives saved and countless disease cases prevented in Canada and around the world. Supported by the World Health Organization, the world's first World Immunization Week is from April 21 to 28, 2012.

"Canada has something to celebrate. In the early 1900s, infectious diseases were the leading cause of death worldwide. Today, in Canada, they are responsible for less than 5% of all deaths," said Dr. Susan Bowles, Chair, CCIAP. "But Canada still faces challenges as more and more individuals raise concerns about the safety and effectiveness of immunizations."

Canada is rigorous about vaccine safety. Immunizations are safe and benefit people of all ages. They protect individuals and communities by preventing the spread of disease. As more people are immunized, the disease risk for everyone is reduced.

CCIAP reminds you to ask your health care provider if you and your family are up to date with immunizations. Protect your world. Get immunized.

Visit **immunize.ca** for more information. See Canada's World Immunization Week video: <http://youtu.be/ptLWaMKBLcw> (English) / <http://youtu.be/cak9vLVY0IQ> (French).

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About the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP):

The Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness & Promotion (CCIAP) is a partnership of national non-governmental, professional health, consumer, government and private sector organizations. It is a trustworthy and independent voice in support of immunization of children, adolescents, adults, and health care workers. Its overall aim is to increase awareness about the benefits of immunization and promote the understanding and use of vaccines as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.