

Strengthening Multistakeholder Country-level Engagement to Advocate for Adult Pertussis Vaccination

TORONTO, Dec 22, 2022 – The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is proud to publish the [report](#) of the recent study “Boosting Knowledge Towards Adult Pertussis Vaccination”. The study was conducted to identify the status of adult pertussis vaccination in the countries of interest, barriers to introducing vaccines and recommendations for informing future policy to include adult pertussis vaccination within national immunization programs.

Considering recent evidence that the incidence of pertussis is increasing in older adults, experts around the globe have recommended the use of booster vaccinations - such as tdap against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis – for adults. Despite these recommendations, the widespread use of these vaccines in the adult population is suboptimal. Pertussis vaccination schedules vary greatly between countries; however, they predominantly focus on pediatric vaccination, with only a few countries providing recommendations for booster vaccinations among adolescents and adults.

“Pertussis is an increasingly serious public health issue that requires urgent action with an increased focus on older people and those with chronic conditions” said Victoria Adepitan, Project Officer at the IFA responsible for executing the project. While pertussis is a vaccine preventable disease, the immunity provided after natural infection or vaccination wanes and therefore, a booster vaccine in later life is necessary to reduce both the prevalence and associated negative health outcomes.

The study findings illustrated that adult pertussis vaccination is not recommended in most countries or is only recommended for a selected group of the population (pregnant women and healthcare workers). This study is instrumental in highlighting the importance of creating a roadmap on which to build multistakeholder engagement to influence and shape policy toward improving adult pertussis vaccination programs and uptake rates.

Given the substantial social and economic burden of pertussis among older adults, adult pertussis vaccination and the broader use of the booster vaccinations is urgently needed. It is crucial to provide opportunities and forums in which the case for adult pertussis vaccination can be made and awareness of the importance and benefits of vaccination can be discussed among key stakeholders and policy-makers.

With this in mind, the IFA hereby invites the public to a webinar on Tuesday, January 17th from 9am to 10.00 am EST to bring various perspectives to the forefront and provide a platform for knowledge exchange and education. This webinar is aimed at consolidating the views of experts, patients, and ageing organizations representing millions of older people to respond to a significant gap in information on pertussis, influence change in adult pertussis vaccination policy and increase the uptake rates of adult pertussis vaccination.

Make sure to visit [Vaccines4Life](#) and explore the IFA social media platforms @IFAgeing.

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The [International Federation on Ageing](#) (IFA) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Nearly 50 years old, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people. Through the IFA's formal relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with member states and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.