

From protection to prevention: the power of immunizing people living with chronic respiratory disease



CRDs have a significant impact on individuals, health systems, and economies:

More than **450 million people** are living with CRDs worldwide.²

CRDs are the **third leading cause of death** worldwide.²

COPD alone is projected to cost the global economy **USD 4.3 trillion** between 2020 and 2050.³



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

People living with CRDs are at higher risk of **severe respiratory infections**.⁴

Respiratory infections can trigger CRD exacerbations, which may require **hospitalization** and can cause **irreversible lung damage**.⁵

Respiratory infections may cause up to **80% of COPD exacerbations** and up to **80% of asthma exacerbations** in adults.⁴



Immunization can help protect people living with CRDs:

For people with CRDs, the COVID-19 vaccine can **reduce the risk of hospitalization** due to the infection **by around 80%**.⁶

Preventing respiratory infections through interventions such as immunization could **halve the incidence of COPD exacerbations**.⁵

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 CRDs. 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.

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