

## Cochrane South Africa celebrates World Immunisation Week, 24 to 30 April 2024

The Vaccine Implementation Research portfolio, led by Cochrane South Africa, an internal research unit of the South African Medical Research Council, is dedicated to generating high-quality evidence to guide policy and practice for health conditions, including vaccination. By identifying obstacles to vaccine adoption and implementing tailored interventions, the portfolio aims to raise immunisation rates and reduce the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases across the continent.

Cochrane South Africa is celebrating World Immunisation Week from 24 to 30 April 2024 with the theme "**Humanly Possible: Immunization for All**," promoting the core message that immunisation of every child is crucial in preventing diseases and saving lives. On April 24, 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, GAVI, and BMGF launched "Humanly Possible," a joint campaign marking the annual World Immunization Week (<https://www.worldimmunizationweek.org/>).

World Immunisation Week aims to increase vaccination coverage by raising awareness of the importance of immunisation among parents and caregivers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the media.

**#WorldImmunisationWeek #HumanlyPossible**

As the world observes World Immunisation Week, it's worth noting that Africa is also celebrating Africa Vaccination Week. South Africa will soon commemorate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Expanded Immunisation Programme, launched in 1995. Cochrane South Africa's efforts serve as a reminder of the crucial role of immunisation in protecting public health and saving lives in Africa.

The celebration of the EPI@50, which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) in 2024, provides a pivotal opportunity to applaud the program's successes, highlight its impact on lives saved, and stimulate renewed efforts to bolster routine immunisation initiatives. Cochrane South Africa has been actively involved in research to understand barriers and facilitators for vaccine uptake in Africa, evaluating the efficacy of various strategies to enhance immunisation coverage and access on the continent.



We have put together important information for your reference:

1. <https://trello.com/b/bjYPrktX/2024-world-immunization-week-humanly-possible>
2. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/a-brief-history-of-vaccination>
3. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-influenza-vaccination>
4. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-polio-vaccination>
5. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-smallpox-vaccination>
6. <https://www.who.int/news-room/spotlight/history-of-vaccination/history-of-measles-vaccination>

