

VAC-PACT PILOT PROJECT
VACCINATION CONFIDENCE –
PATIENTS' AND PROFESSIONALS'
AWARENESS, COMMUNICATIONS &
TRUST

Vaccination & Respiratory Diseases



Funded by the
European Union



The status quo

- Thousands of adults around the world get sick from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines every year.
- People with **respiratory diseases**, in specific, are often at higher-risk of complications from **vaccine-preventable diseases**.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates:

262 million people

worldwide have asthma


65 million people

have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

... while **millions more** have allergic rhinitis and other often under-diagnosed chronic respiratory diseases.

Getting vaccinated is an important step in staying healthy. **Talk to a healthcare professional, discuss your individual situation and health needs, and make sure you get your vaccinations up to date.**

Respiratory diseases overview



Chronic respiratory diseases are chronic diseases of the airways and other structures of the lung. These can be grouped into **obstructive lung diseases** and **restrictive lung diseases**.



- **Obstructive lung diseases** cause more difficulty while exhaling air, such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and bronchiectasis.

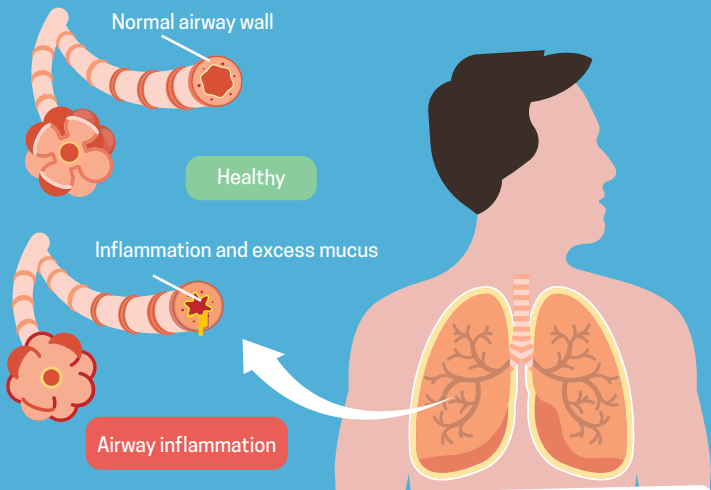
- **Restrictive lung diseases** are diseases that can cause problems by restricting the ability to inhale air, such as pulmonary fibrosis, chronic sinusitis, and occupational lung diseases.



There is currently no cure for chronic respiratory diseases but **with treatment, preventative care, and lifestyle modifications, you can live a long, healthy life!**

Respiratory diseases overview

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- In a **healthy patient**, the airway wall is normally lined and has no mucus.
- A patient with **airway inflammation**, on the other hand, presents an inflamed thickened airway wall with mucus which can make it hard to breathe.

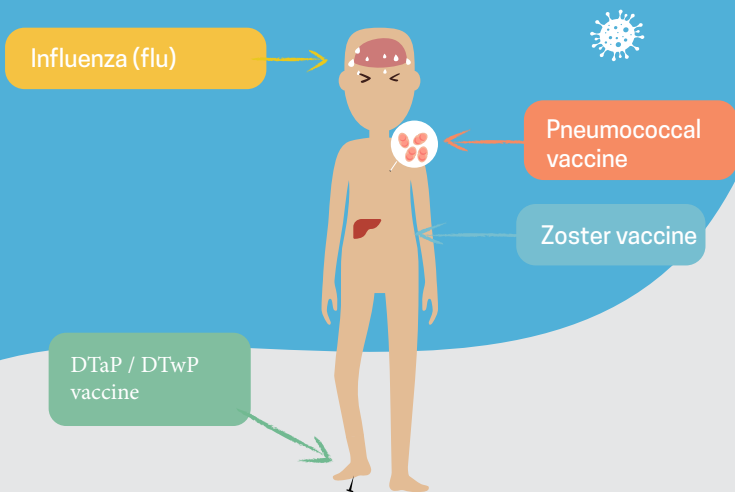
Certain vaccine-preventable diseases can also increase the swelling of your airways and lungs. The combination of the two can lead to pneumonia and other serious respiratory illnesses.



Key vaccines

We know that **people with respiratory diseases** are more exposed to health risks related to vaccine-preventable disease.

Here are 4 key vaccines that help to mitigate these risks based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):



- Certain vaccines are not recommended for people with compromised immune systems. **Consult with your healthcare professional on a case-by-case basis.**
- Keep in mind: routine medical visits are an opportune time for providing respiratory healthcare, follow-up, and continuous patient education.



COVID-19

On 11 March 2020, the WHO characterised COVID-19, **an infectious respiratory disease**, caused by a newly discovered coronavirus as a global pandemic affecting people of all ages.

- Symptoms usually start within 3-7 days of exposure to the virus, but in some cases, it has taken up to 14 days for symptoms to appear.

Common symptoms



Fever



Cough



Breathing difficulties



Tiredness



Muscle aches

- Rare and severe complications can include lung infection, kidney disease and even death.
- People with respiratory diseases are considered as **high-risk groups for COVID-19** and are more likely of developing severe symptoms.
- Severity of COVID-19 is **associated with increased age** (>60 years), and the presence of **multiple underlying health conditions**. Recent data also points towards male groups at slightly higher risk rates.

COVID-19

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In view of their increased risk of poor health outcomes as a consequence of COVID-19, it is important that people with respiratory diseases are included among priority groups for vaccination programmes.

By September 2021, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has authorised the following COVID-19 vaccines for use in the European Union: **Comirnaty** (Pfizer-BioNTech), **Spikevax** (Moderna), **Vaxzevria** (AstraZeneca), and **Janssen**.



Informed decision

It is vital that lack of vaccination uptake and hesitancy is addressed through **open dialogue, backed with scientific evidence**. A **life-course approach to vaccination** through informed shared decision-making needs to be adapted!

The European Patients' Forum Charter on Patient Empowerment advocates for a patient-centred healthcare practice through the following principles:

You are more than your health condition!

You are empowered to the extent you wish to be.

You are an equal partner in all decisions related to your health.

You can request to have the information you need in an easily understandable format, including your own health records.

Health professionals and our health system actively promote health literacy for all.

You have the ongoing support you need to manage your own care. Just ask!

Your experience is a vital measure of healthcare quality.

You can also participate in evaluating and co-designing healthcare services, so they work better for everyone.