
FIP HOLDING STATEMENT

Reaffirming the safety and value of combination vaccines

According to the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#), vaccines prevent between 3.5 and 5 million deaths each year and have saved more than 150 million lives in the past 50 years. They protect people of all ages against over 30 life-threatening diseases, prevent severe disability, reduce poverty, and underpin global health security. Vaccination also provides significant economic value by reducing healthcare costs and preventing productivity losses associated with illness.

Thanks to vaccines, over 18 million people who would have been paralysed by polio can walk today, more than 90 million children have been spared death from measles, and more than a million lives from cervical cancer have already been saved. In 2024, 14.5 million infants worldwide missed out on getting even a single dose of vaccine in the essential immunisation programme, according to the [latest WHO-UNICEF estimates](#). These are “zero-dose” children, many living in fragile settings where access to care is limited and misinformation contributes an added threat.

Combination vaccines such as the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) are safe, effective and vital. They reduce the number of injections required, ensure timely coverage, and protect against multiple diseases at once. Allegations of a link between MMR and autism have been scientifically refuted. Replacing combined vaccines with single-dose schedules would delay protection and leave children unnecessarily vulnerable to serious illness.

The International Pharmaceutical Federation’s (FIP) work on vaccination is based on the conviction that increasing coverage and promoting a life-course approach to immunisation are global imperatives. Of the 21 [FIP](#)



[Development Goals](#) (DGs) launched in 2020, vaccination is linked to DG 16 (Communicable diseases), reflecting its priority for both pharmacy, FIP and global health. Pharmacists, with appropriate training, play a vital role in delivering vaccination services: from administering vaccines to addressing hesitancy, countering misinformation, and supporting record-keeping.

Misinformation, as [WHO warns](#), spreads faster and further than truth, and its consequences are real and tragic: declining vaccine uptake, avoidable outbreaks, and preventable deaths. Measles resurgence is already being happening in countries where vaccination coverage has slipped below safe thresholds. FIP urges parents and caregivers to rely on evidence-based guidance from trusted healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, to ensure children and communities are protected.

FIP reaffirms its commitment to working with its members, global partners and the wider health community to strengthen vaccine confidence, counter misinformation, and safeguard the decades of progress achieved through immunisation.

ABOUT FIP

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global federation of national associations of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists and is in official relations with the World Health Organization. Through our 160 member organisations, we represent over four million pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmaceutical educators around the world. FIP's vision is a world where everyone benefits from access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and health technologies, as well as from pharmaceutical care services provided by pharmacists, in collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

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