



## Press Release

15 April 2025

### Ministry of Health Reaffirms Importance of Vaccination for a Healthier Vanuatu

The Ministry of Health reaffirms its ongoing commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all people in Vanuatu through safe, effective, and evidence-based vaccination programs. Immunization remains one of the most powerful and proven tools to prevent a wide range of infectious diseases and promote public health.

Vaccines play a vital role in reducing illness, disability, and death from preventable diseases. Thanks to long-standing national efforts, Vanuatu has significantly decreased the burden of illnesses such as measles, polio, diphtheria, and cervical cancer. Routine immunizations continue to protect children, adolescents, and adults, helping to build healthier, more resilient communities.

Like all medical interventions, vaccines may cause side effects. Most are mild and temporary, such as soreness at the injection site or low-grade fever. These are normal signs that the body is building protection. While side effects can occur—just as they do with many other medicines or foreign substances—the **benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks**.

The Ministry of Health works in close partnership with health workers, communities, and global partners to ensure that all vaccines used in Vanuatu are safe, suitable for our population, and supported by scientific evidence.

We understand that in times of change or uncertainty, people may have questions. The Ministry encourages everyone to seek information from qualified health professionals and trusted sources. Open dialogue and accurate information are essential for building public trust in vaccination.

We remain focused on:

- Expanding access to routine immunizations, especially for children and communities who may have missed scheduled doses;
- Strengthening targeted vaccination programs, such as the HPV vaccine, which protects the health of women and girls;
- Ensuring rapid and coordinated responses to prevent disease outbreaks;

- Promoting community awareness and trust through transparent, evidence-based communication.

The Ministry of Health expresses its deep appreciation to health workers, community leaders, and families who continue to support immunization efforts. Vaccination remains one of the most effective and reliable ways to keep our people safe, healthy, and strong.

**Vaccines protect. Vaccines save lives. Their benefits far outweigh the risks. Let's work together to build a healthier Vanuatu for all.**