

Essential Programme on Immunization

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About Essential Programme on Immunization:

- It was launched as the **Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)** by **World Health Organisation** in 1974 to ensure that all children, in all countries, benefited from life-saving vaccines.
- This programme has evolved into what is now commonly known as the **Essential Programme on Immunization**.
- **Disease covered (Total 13)**
 - Initially this programme focused on protection **against six childhood vaccine-preventable diseases** namely **Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, and measles**.
 - Later on WHO added **7 more disease** under this initiative Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), Hepatitis B (HepB), rubella, pneumococcal disease (PNC), rotavirus (Rota), human papillomavirus (HPV), and COVID-19 (for adults).

India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)

- India launched the EPI in 1978, which was later renamed as the **Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)** in 1985.
- **Objectives:**

- To rapidly increase **immunization coverage**.
 - To improve the quality of services.
 - To establish a reliable cold chain system to the health facility level.
 - Monitoring of performance.
 - To achieve self-sufficiency in vaccine production.
 - **Eligibility:**
 - All beneficiaries' namely **pregnant women and children** can get themselves vaccinated at the nearest Government/Private health facility or at an immunization session site (Anganwadicentres/ other identified sites) near to their village/urban locality on fixed days.
 - The UIP covers all sections of the society across the country with the same high quality vaccines.
 - Under UIP, immunization is providing free of cost against **12 vaccine preventable diseases**
 - **Nationally against 9 diseases** – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Measles, Rubella, severe form of Childhood Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B and Meningitis & Pneumonia caused by Hemophilus Influenza type B
 - **Sub-nationally against 3 diseases** – Rotavirus diarrhoea, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Japanese Encephalitis; of which Rotavirus vaccine and Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine are in process of expansion while JE vaccine is provided only in endemic districts.
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Q1: What is Immunization?

It is a process by which a person becomes protected against a disease through vaccination. This term is often used interchangeably with vaccination or inoculation.

Source: Make EPI an 'Essential Programme on Immunisation'

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/universal-immunization-programme/>

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