

**Message from H.E Federal Health Minister
Honourable Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel, MoNHSR&C**

- 24th to 30th April is marked as World Immunization Week (WIW) all over the Globe. WIW brings together people from around the world to highlight the importance of vaccines and how they protect children against vaccine preventable diseases, giving us the opportunity to pursue a life well-lived.
- Every Year, Federal Directorate of Immunization under the leadership of the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and in collaboration with all provincial EPIs and other stakeholders commemorate World Immunization Week all across Pakistan.
- The theme this year's World Immunization Week is 'The Big Catch-Up'. WIW 2023 is our global opportunity to catch-up on lost progress in essential immunization.
- The theme motivates countries to get back on track by catching-up on the millions of children who missed out on vaccines during the pandemic to ensure protection against vaccine preventable diseases.
- The specific objectives of World Immunization Week 2023 campaign are to: -
 - Increase trust and confidence in vaccines to increase vaccine acceptance.
 - Increase investment in vaccines, including routine immunization, to remove barriers to access.
- The main idea of commemorating this week is "Advocate to Vaccinate". Hence, I take this opportunity to urge all direct and indirect stakeholders from all walks of life (Religious Leaders, Academia, Doctors, Medical Forums, Media Personal, NGOs/CBOs, Parliamentarians, FBOs, Partner & Donor Organizations, Parliamentarians, Government Departments, Volunteers and specially the Parents and Health Care Workers, Lawyers, and many others) to play their role in order to achieve our ultimate goal of universal immunization coverage (100% fully immunized children).
- WIW messages urge all parents to get their child vaccinated against 12 deadly diseases in 6 visits to get 12 vaccine Shots containing 13 lifesaving antigens by the age of 15 Months.
- WIW is an opportunity to extend a gesture of gratitude to all provincial/area Expanded Programmes on Immunizations EPI, PEI Emergency Operations Centres, donor and partner organizations inclusive of World Health Organization, UNICEF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, JICA, USAID, Aga Khan Foundation, ACASUS, IRD, Red Cross Movement, ADB and many other national and international stakeholders.
- The ultimate goal of World Immunization Week is for more children to be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases allowing them to live happier & healthier lives.