

Vaccination Week in the Americas: A global movement for equity and population health

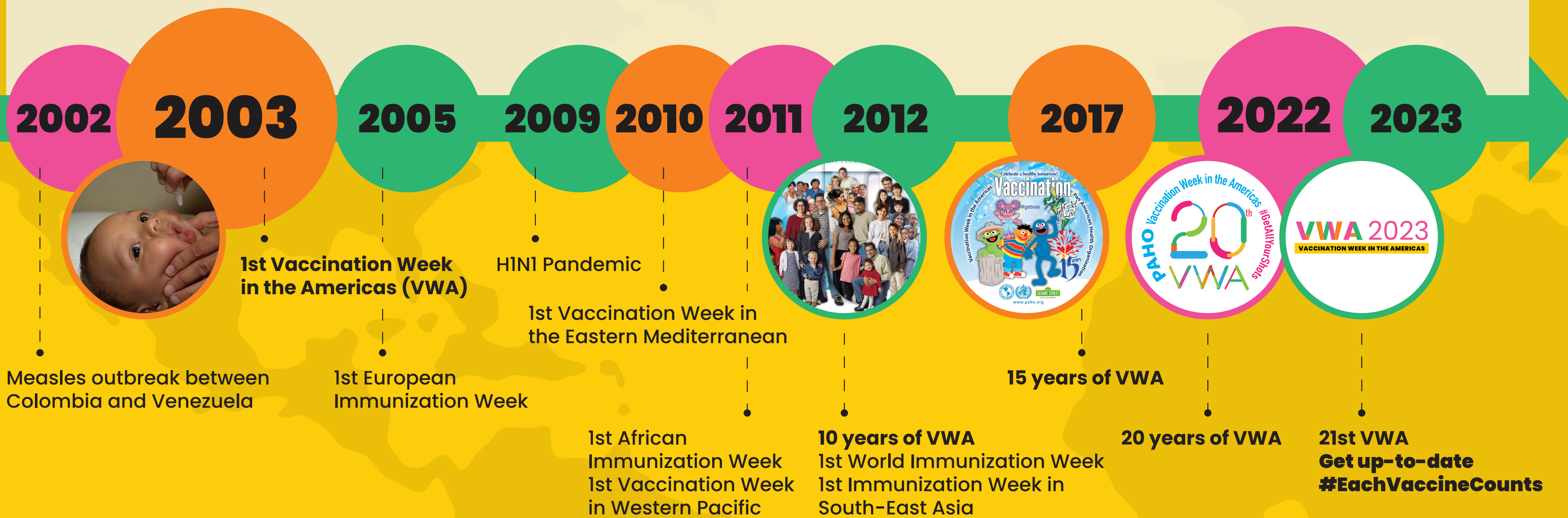
Vaccination Week in the Americas (VWA) is a yearly event where more than 40 countries and territories in the Americas come together to offer live-saving vaccines to millions of persons of all ages.

Objectives

- Maintain immunization at the top of the political agenda.
- Sustain the regional targets for eradication, elimination and control of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Promote equitable access to vaccination.
- Build trust and confidence in the safety and effectiveness of all vaccines.
- Promote the spirit of pan-americanism.

Milestones

- Since 2003:
- VWA has helped countries reach nearly 1.1 billion people in more than 40 countries.
 - This initiative has supported the control of many vaccine-preventable diseases and the elimination of 6 vaccine-preventable diseases: polio, measles, congenital rubella syndrome, neonatal tetanus, hepatitis B and smallpox.



Key points

- The annual launching ceremony is hosted by the PAHO Director to bring attention to the critical issue of vaccine acceptance at the highest level of national governments.
- Countries and territories make a special effort to reach people who may not have regular access to health services, including indigenous peoples, migrants, border populations and people living on the urban fringe.
- Each country can adapt the activities of the VWA to the needs and demands of its people.
- Multiple events and extended service hours allow more people to receive vaccines at convenient times and locations.
- Countries often use this event to offer other essential health services alongside vaccines.

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