



MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY & INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN

No link between vaccination efforts and the spread of HIV in Pakistan

KARACHI, June 8, 2019: The Medical Microbiology and infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan (MMIDSP) representing Infectious Diseases and immunization experts, categorically and unequivocally deny reports that there is a connection between vaccination efforts and the spread of HIV in Pakistan.

The current immunization programmes offer safe oral and injectable vaccines against ten infections including polio which can have devastating consequences. It is important to ensure that each and every eligible child benefits from protection provided by the vaccines.

Pakistan still holds one of the highest burden of vaccine-preventable infectious illnesses. Vaccination is one of the most successful strategies that has resulted in control of such infections in the world.

Pakistan's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) including the Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) of Polio and Measles vaccines aims to replicate this success. The overarching objectives are to protect our children from disability and death while making sure that Pakistan is not forced into international isolation.

Quality procedures in accordance with World Health Organization standards in vaccine storage, transportation and administration ensure that there is no link to harmful events or spread of infections like hepatitis or HIV. In fact, vaccination protects and has resulted in the control of the Hepatitis B spread in Pakistan.

It is therefore imperative that through EPI and SIAs, we establish adequate protection to our population to prevent outbreaks of these infections.

It is also requested that the media ensures that misreporting does not take place and efforts to eradicate polio and other infection are not harmed.

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