Busch, Brigitta (2017). Erzählen können, schwelgen dürfen, informationen zur...
Vaccination and Immunisation

5. Vaccination and Immunisation

In recent years, the World Health Organization (WHO) has led a global campaign to eradicate smallpox. This campaign was successful in 1980, and since then, smallpox has been declared a globally eradicated disease.

Immunisation is a vital part of public health and is an essential tool in the prevention of many infectious diseases. Immunisation involves the administration of vaccines to stimulate the immune system to develop immunity to specific diseases.

Vaccines work by introducing a weakened or killed form of a pathogen into the body, which triggers the immune system to fight off the pathogen. This results in the production of antibodies that can help protect the body against future infections by the same pathogen.

Immunisation programmes are typically free or low-cost, and are offered to all children as part of routine healthcare in many countries. Immunisation coverage is monitored through national immunisation registries and is assessed using data from immunisation services and surveys of children in the general population.

Immunisation is particularly important for children, as it helps protect them from serious and potentially life-threatening diseases such as measles, mumps, and rubella. Immunisation is also important for adults, as it can help protect against diseases such as influenza and pneumonia.

In many countries, immunisation is required for children to enrol in school, and immunisation certificates are often required for travel abroad. Immunisation is also recommended for pregnant women, as it can help protect their unborn children from infections such as rubella.

Immunisation is a cost-effective way to prevent disease and save lives. It is estimated that for every dollar invested in immunisation, $40 is saved in health care costs and lost productivity.

In conclusion, immunisation is a critical component of public health and is an essential tool in the prevention of many infectious diseases. Immunisation programmes are essential for protecting the health and well-being of communities around the world.