

Protecting the Longevity Boom: Adult Immunisation in **Viet Nam**

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Add influenza for older adults to the mandatory vaccination list.

The Minister of Health can add it to the Expanded Programme on Immunisation under Circular 13/2026/TT-BYT, as the 2026 to 2030 investment guides are finalised.^{1,2}

2 Add a vaccination review to the free annual health check.

The Health Sciences Council evaluation route already holds a respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) fact sheet, and the technical window for the fiscal 2027 cycle opens in autumn 2026.^{3,4}

3 Publish adult vaccination rates by age group.

The Department of Disease Prevention already reports pediatric coverage through the national immunisation system, and Shingles, RSV, COVID, and Influenza are all notifiable as of July 2026.^{5,6}

IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES

19x1

Adult Vax Return
on Investmentⁱ

30-60%

Reduced Risk of
Heart Attackⁱⁱ

3-6

Lost Work Days
Prevented by
Adult Vaxⁱⁱⁱ



WHY IT MATTERS

Vaccinating older adults reduces hospital admissions, keeps older adults and their caregivers healthy and independent, and helps manage non-communicable diseases that are common later in life.

CURRENT POLICY LANDSCAPE

Viet Nam's Ministry of Health and Department of Disease Prevention decide and fund vaccination through the Expanded Programme on Immunisation.⁷ In December 2025, the Law on Disease Prevention brought older people into that programme for the first time, and from 2026, every citizen has a free annual health check and an electronic health record, but Adult vaccines are not integrated into these new frameworks, representing significant missed opportunities including no vaccine listing for older people.⁸ There is no published national data on adult vaccine uptake to measure coverage.

KEY FINDINGS

1

Older adults hold the influenza burden.

Influenza sent 207 out of every 100,000 Vietnamese over 65 to the hospital each year with severe respiratory illness, measured across 2014 to 2016.⁹

2

The annual check reaches everyone.

From 2026, every citizen is offered a free health check at least once a year, but the check does not include vaccines.¹⁰

3

All four diseases are now notifiable.

Since July 2026, RSV, COVID-19, influenza and shingles all report nationally, though none by age.¹¹

DISEASE & VACCINE SNAPSHOT *

DISEASE	CASES (RECENT)	OLDER ADULT CASES (65+)	NATIONAL RECOMMENDATION/ FUNDING
RSV	Notifiable starting 2026	Not reported	No national recommendation; not funded
COVID-19	Notifiable starting 2026	Not reported	No national recommendation; not funded
Influenza	Notifiable starting 2026	Not reported	Not in the mandatory list; planned 2030
Shingles	132,000	Not reported	No national recommendation; not funded

ABOUT AP-CHAAI

The Asia-Pacific Consortium for Healthy Aging and Adult Immunization (AP-CHAAI) is a network of healthy aging and economics experts working with global partners to close the data and policy gaps that keep preventive care from delivering its full value. ap-chaai.org



References

- 1 - K. Anh. (2026). HPV vaccine added to mandatory immunization list. *En.Baochinhphu.Vn*. <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/hpv-vaccine-added-to-mandatory-immunization-list-111260520165031478.htm>
- 2 - Viet Nam News. (2026). Gov't proposes \$315b public investment for 2026-2030. *Vietnamnews.Vn*. <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1779146/gov-t-proposes-315b-public-investment-for-2026-2030.html>
- 3 - Cục Quản lý Khám, chữa bệnh. (2026). New guidelines on professional content for routine health check-ups for the public. *Vietnam.Vn*. <https://www.vietnam.vn/en/huong-dan-moi-noi-dung-chuyen-mon-kham-suc-khoe-dinh-ky-cho-nguoi-dan>
- 4 - Báo Sức khỏe và Đời sống. (2026). Starting July 1st, primary school students will have their vaccination history reviewed for supplementary vaccinations. *Vietnam.Vn*. <https://www.vietnam.vn/en/tu-1-7-hoc-sinh-tieu-hoc-se-duoc-ra-soat-tien-su-tiem-chung-de-tiem-bo-sung>
- 5 - PATH. (2019). The evolution of Immunization Records in Vietnam: From paper-based systems to the National Immunization Information System (NIIS). *PATH*. https://media.path.org/documents/PATH_IDEAL_factsheet.docx.pdf
- 6 - K. Loan. (2026). Health ministry renews list of infectious diseases. *En.Baochinhphu.Vn*. <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/health-ministry-renews-list-of-infectious-diseases-111260706152019539.html>
- 7 - K. P. Nguyen, et al. (2025). From decentralization to re-centralization: Lessons learned from Vietnam's rapid reversal in the financing of the expanded program on immunization. *The Lancet Regional Health - Western Pacific*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanwpc.2025.101648>
- 8 - Vietnam+. (2026). Vietnam moves toward universal free annual health checkups from 2026. *Vietnam+*. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/vietnam-moves-toward-universal-free-annual-health-checkups-from-2026-post342335.vnp>
- 9 - H.T. Nguyen, et al. (2021). Burden of influenza-associated respiratory hospitalizations, Vietnam, 2014-2016. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34545793/>
- 10 - Office of The Prime Minister of Viet Nam. (2026). Directive No. 17/CT-TTg dated 6 May 2026 on organising free periodic health check-ups and screening for the population. <https://vietnamlawmagazine.vn/citizens-to-receive-free-health-check-ups-at-least-once-a-year-79457.html>
- 11 - K. Loan. (2026). Health ministry renews list of infectious diseases. *En.Baochinhphu.Vn*. <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/health-ministry-renews-list-of-infectious-diseases-111260706152019539.html>
- i - Office of Health Economics. (2024). Adult vaccination programmes deliver socio-economic benefits up to 19 times initial investment, according to new report. *OHE*. <https://www.ohe.org/news/adult-vaccination-delivers-19-times-investment/>
- ii - Global Coalition on Aging. (2026). Adult immunization for healthy workforces and healthy economies in an aging world. *Global Coalition on Aging*. https://globalcoalitiononaging.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/GCOA_Vaccines-and-Productivity_InfographicA4_FINAL-SINGLE-PAGE.pdf
- iii - National Foundation for Infectious Diseases. (2019). 10 Reasons to get vaccinated. *National Foundation for Infectious Diseases*. <https://www.nfid.org/immunization/10-reasons-to-get-vaccinated/>

*Data in the disease burden and vaccine snapshot table is AP-CHAAI's estimate based on publicly available and verifiable government sources. Data relies on sentinel surveillance and the true burden is likely higher.