International
Longevity Centre UK

12 November 2026

Dear Karmen Joller,

Today marks World Pneumonia Day. Pneumonia is a life course disease that claims more infant lives than any other infectious disease and poses a serious threat to older people and those with chronic health conditions.

Pneumococcal disease is a bacterial infection and a leading cause of pneumonia. Although it can be prevented through vaccination, it still claims the lives of an estimated 1.6 million people each year globally.[1]

The International Longevity Centre UK (ILC) has been at the forefront of research and policy on life course vaccination for over 15 years, using its Pneumococcal Vaccination Atlas to show pneumococcal vaccination coverage, recommendations and funding in 63 countries and territories across Asia-Pacific and Europe.

What does pneumococcal vaccination look like in Estonia?

Group	Coverage (versus regional average)	Recommendation	Funding
Infant (under-5)	No data	No	No recommendation
At-risk group	No data	Yes	Yes
Older adult (over-65)	No data	Yes	Not funded or partially funded

Compared with its European peers, Estonia is falling behind on pneumococcal vaccination. Estonia should consider taking further action to address these gaps in pneumococcal vaccination. To keep people of all ages healthier across the life course, ILC is calling for greater action on pneumococcal vaccination by:

- **Fully funding vaccination programmes:** Governments should reimburse pneumococcal vaccination for all age groups to ensure equitable access.
- **Reporting vaccination coverage rates to identify gaps:** Current coverage data is strong for infants but limited for at-risk groups and older adults. Better reporting by national health bodies would show governments where the gaps are and where to target vaccination.
- **Investing in life course vaccination to support healthy ageing:** Vaccination at every stage of life, starting in infancy, can help people age well for longer. Governments should establish programmes for every age group and at-risk groups.

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Thank you for your attention. My colleagues and I would welcome the chance to discuss pneumococcal vaccination and wider prevention with you and your team.

Yours sincerely,



David Sinclair
Chief Executive, ILC

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[1] Bravo, L. C. (2009). Overview of the disease burden of invasive pneumococcal disease in Asia. *Vaccine*, *27*(52), 7282–7291. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2009.04.046

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