

Special Issue

Reactive Vaccination During Outbreaks

Message from the Guest Editors

Vaccines are crucial for preventing infections and reducing disease severity. They protect not only individuals but also those who are unvaccinated through herd immunity. Routine childhood vaccination protects infants and controls the spread of infectious diseases. In response to outbreaks, “reactive” vaccination campaigns aim to mitigate or contain the disease, reducing incidence and mortality while lessening the strain on healthcare systems. Effective vaccines, ideally successful after the first dose, are essential for these campaigns. This can range from specific age or risk groups to entire communities or countries for mass vaccinations. Reactive vaccination may also protect healthcare workers from dangerous pathogens using strategies like ring vaccination. There is ongoing debate about the effectiveness of reactive versus proactive vaccination strategies, covering aspects such as vaccine efficacy, efficiency, duration of protection, and the selection of populations. This Special Issue will explore these topics to comprehensively understand vaccination during epidemics.

Guest Editors

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Vaccines (ISSN 2076-393X), founded in 2013, now has a firm history of publishing peer-reviewed, state-of-the-art research papers on vaccines and vaccination in the broadest sense. Areas covered include, but are not limited to, novel and emerging vaccine technologies, building on in-depth knowledge of what constitutes a protective immune response. These can be new vaccines for old diseases, or old vaccines for new diseases. Vaccines against cancer and autoimmune diseases explicitly are also within the scope of the journal. Because public opinion and even government policies towards vaccines and vaccination have changed, vaccine policy and public health issues are major concerns. Climate change will also have an impact on the spread of infectious diseases, and thus also on vaccine and vaccination policies worldwide.

Editor-in-Chief

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manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 18.1 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 2.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the second half of 2025).