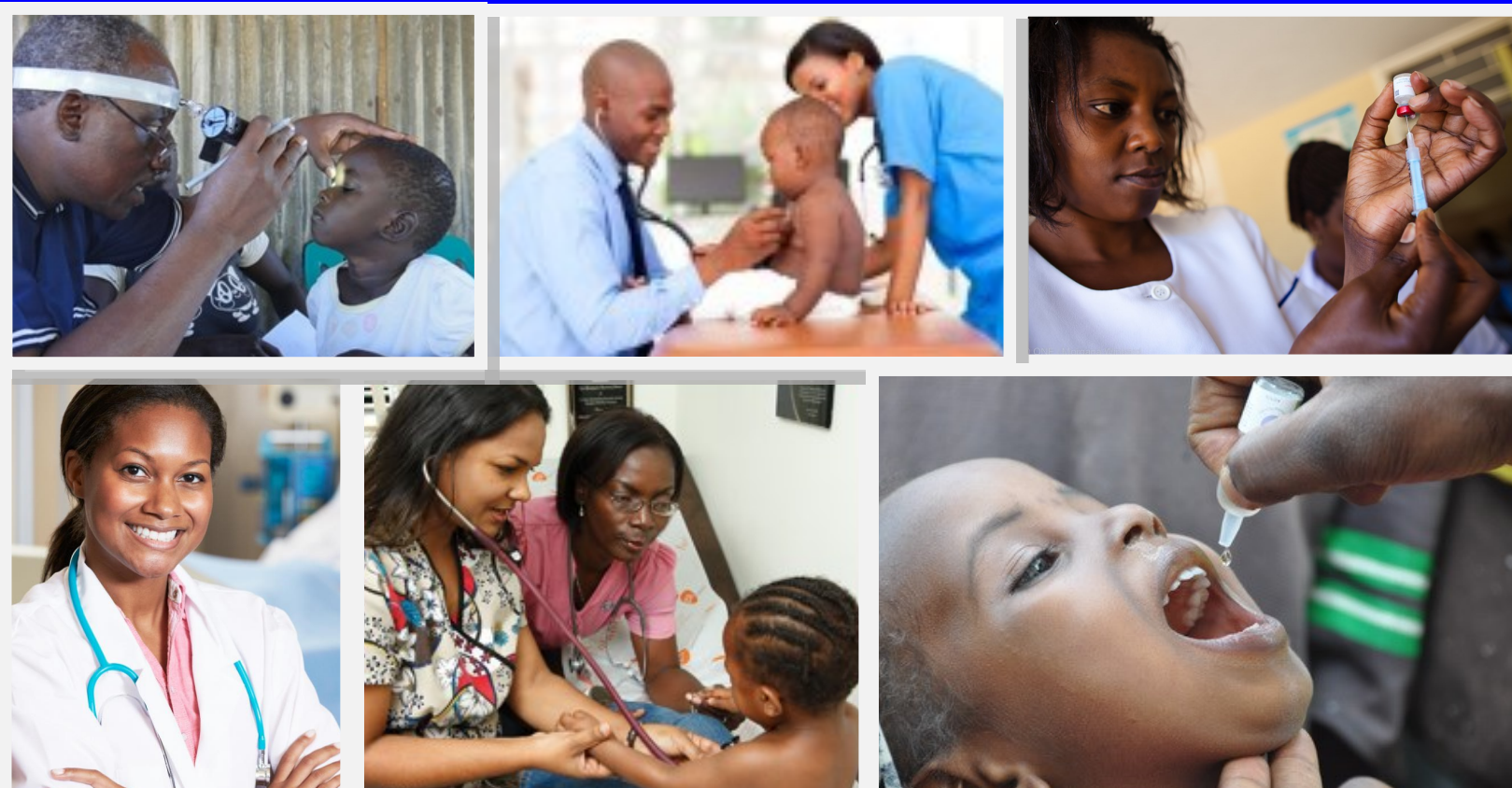


IMMUNISATION

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?



Parents need to recognise the importance of Immunisation and how it can protect children against the following diseases:

- ✓ **Tetanus**, also called "**Lockjaw**" is a painful disease that can cause death, especially in newborn babies.
- ✓ **Tuberculosis** or "**TB**" commonly affects the lungs. It is very contagious but can be prevented.
- ✓ **Diphtheria** is a dangerous and contagious disease that kills many young children who have not been immunised against it. It starts in the throat and can prevent the child from breathing.
- ✓ **Whooping Cough**, which is called "**Pertussis**", affects babies under three months old. The cough causes the baby to make a "whooping" sound as he/she struggles to breath.

- ✓ **Measles** is often thought to be a harmless childhood disease, but it can cause serious problems for a child. The illness is very contagious and is especially dangerous for children under five years old.
- ✓ **Poliomyelitis**, commonly called “**Polio**”, attacks the nervous system. Anyone who catches polio can be crippled for life, or can die from the disease.
- ✓ **Rubella** also called “**German Measles**” may cause death in an unborn child, mental retardation, loss of hearing or eyesight as well as other birth defects.
- ✓ **Mumps** is caused by a virus that affects the gland in the neck and painful swelling of the scrotum in boys.

The Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) urges parents to inform themselves about Immunisation, by asking questions, such as what will the vaccine do, what are the side effects if any, how might your child be affected. Parents need to know that while the benefits of vaccine outweigh the risks, for some children, there is still some level of risks that you still need to discuss with your child's doctor. Find out how vaccines work, what are the risks and what are your choices.

POSSIBLE RISKS:

- ✓ The body may have minor allergic reactions to the vaccines or its components. These include local swelling at the point of injection, a slight rash and fever, although these are rare.
- ✓ Another concern is that some people may not develop immunities even after the vaccine is given. For these and other concerns parents should make a priority to consult their child's physician.