



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Merck Applauds World Health Organization's (WHO)
World Immunization Week**

WHO's campaign to drive greater access to vaccines

KIRKLAND, Quebec – The theme of this year's WHO World Immunization Week, 24 - 30 April 2017, is #VaccinesWork, which aims to help improve vaccination rates to help protect children, adolescents and adults from preventable diseases.

Merck recognizes the importance of improving the well-being of people and communities around the world, and applauds the WHO's World Immunization Week campaign for 2017. Vaccination is considered one of the greatest public health achievements of modern times, helping to prevent more than 30 diseases. Merck is committed to building on this success via investment and innovation to help reduce vaccine-preventable diseases.

This year marks the mid-point of the WHO's Global Vaccine Action Plan (GVAP). The GVAP aims to strengthen routine vaccination to meet vaccination coverage targets; accelerate control of vaccine-preventable diseases with polio eradication as the first milestone; introduce new and improved vaccines and spur research and development for the next generation of vaccines and technologies.

Merck is one of the global leaders in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases and has helped protect the health of people across the globe. The company has a broad vaccine portfolio, helping to prevent communicable diseases from infancy and adolescence to adulthood. Merck is also working to expand its vaccines portfolio by investing in its current drug pipeline to help address global health needs.

"Vaccines play an important role in public health, but still millions of people around the world remain unvaccinated and vulnerable to preventable diseases," says Sevag Sahakian, Interim Medical Director, Medical Affairs, Merck Canada Inc. "At Merck, we continue our efforts to increase access to our current vaccines and develop new vaccines, and echo the World

Health Organization's mission to expand access through our collaborations with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and governments to reach some communities with unmet needs."

World Immunization Week is an annual, global awareness campaign launched in 2012 by the WHO, with an ultimate purpose to promote the use of vaccines to help protect people of all ages against disease.

###

Contact:

Merck: Annick Robinson (438) 837-2550

About Merck in Canada

For over a century, Merck has been a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information about our operations in Canada, visit www.merck.ca and connect with us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

Forward-Looking Statement of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA

This news release of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., USA (the "company") includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the company's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. There can be no guarantees with respect to pipeline products that the products will receive the necessary regulatory approvals or that they will prove to be commercially successful. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to, general industry conditions and competition; general economic factors, including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations; the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation in the United States and internationally; global trends toward health care cost containment; technological advances, new products and patents attained by competitors; challenges inherent

in new product development, including obtaining regulatory approval; the company's ability to accurately predict future market conditions; manufacturing difficulties or delays; financial instability of international economies and sovereign risk; dependence on the effectiveness of the company's patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent litigation, and/or regulatory actions.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the company's 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K and the company's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC's Internet site (www.sec.gov).

###