

Questions & Answers (Q&A) about Measles, Mumps & Rubella Vaccination

Q. What are Measles, Mumps and Rubella Diseases?

A. **Measles** is a highly infectious virus spread by respiratory droplets, causing fever, cough and a rash beginning on the face and upper neck, becoming more generalised. One in 25 children with measles develops pneumonia and 1 in 2,000 develops encephalitis (brain inflammation). For every 10 children who develop measles encephalitis, one will die, and 4 will have permanent brain damage. About 1 in 25,000 will develop brain degeneration, which is always fatal.

Mumps is a contagious virus spread by saliva. It causes swollen neck glands and fever. One in 200 children develop encephalitis; one in 5 males past puberty develops inflammation of the testes. Occasionally mumps causes infertility or deafness.

Rubella (German Measles) is a contagious virus spread by droplets causing rash, fever and swollen glands. It causes severe malformations to babies of infected pregnant women. About 5 in 10 patients develop a rash and painful swollen glands; 5 in 10 adolescents and adults have painful joints. One in 3,000 develops thrombocytopenia (bruising/bleeding). One in 6,000 develops brain inflammation. Nine in 10 babies infected during the first 10 weeks after conception will have a major congenital abnormality, such as, deafness, blindness, brain damage or heart defects.

Q. Should my child be vaccinated?

A. The National Health and Medical Research Council states that two doses of MMR vaccine are required for complete immunity to measles, mumps and rubella. MMR vaccine should be given to all children at 12 months of age and again at 4 years of age. A second dose of MMR vaccine is recommended for children over 4 years of age who have only received one dose of MMR vaccine.

Q. What are the components of the MMR vaccine?

A. The vaccine contains measles virus; mumps virus; rubella virus; neomycin (an antibiotic to prevent contamination of the vaccine); albumin, amino acids, sorbitol and mannitol (additives used to stabilize the vaccine).

Q. What is “anaphylaxis”?

A. “Anaphylaxis” is a severe allergic reaction that may result in unconsciousness and death if not treated quickly. It occurs *rarely* after vaccination.

The nurses are fully trained in the treatment of anaphylaxis.

Q. How long does the vaccination last?

A. The MMR vaccine provides long lasting protection, however all children and adults should have received two doses of MMR vaccine for complete immunity.

Q. What should I do if I have no records or I cannot remember if my child has already received the MMR vaccine?

A. It is safe for your child to receive another dose of MMR vaccine.

Q. My child has already received a two-dose course of MMR vaccine. Does he/she need another dose?

A. No. Two doses of MMR vaccine is all that is required.

Q. What can I do if I do not wish my child to be vaccinated at school or if my child missed out on the vaccine at school because of illness or absence on the day the nurses’ visit?

A. You can take your child to your GP to receive free MMR vaccine. It is advisable to inform the practice that your child requires MMR vaccination when making the appointment.

Q. Is vaccination compulsory for this campaign?

A. No. Parents can choose whether or not to sign the Consent Form and have their child vaccinated. Only those children with a Consent Form completed and signed by a Parent/Guardian will be vaccinated.

All Parents/Guardians are asked to read the information provided and return the *signed* Consent Form. DO NOT return the consent form if you DO NOT wish your child to be vaccinated.

Q. Should I give my child a dose of paracetamol before going to school on the day of the clinic?

A. No. This is not necessary.

Q. What if my child has asthma and takes cortisone or prednisone by a “puffer”?

A. It is safe to vaccinate children with MMR vaccine if they use a “puffer” for asthma.

Q. Do homoeopathic preparations protect against measles, mumps and rubella diseases?

A. No. There is no evidence that homoeopathic preparations prevent measles, mumps and rubella diseases.

Q. Should the vaccine be given to a young woman who is or thinks she may be pregnant?

A. No. Any young woman who is or thinks she may be pregnant should not be vaccinated. Women who have received Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccine (MMR) should not become pregnant for 28 days after vaccination.

Q. Will I receive a record of the vaccinations that my child received?

A. Your child will be given a record of vaccination. It is important that you advise your GP that this vaccination has been given, as universities, colleges, workplaces and other countries often require this information.

Please store this record in a safe place for future reference.

Q. Where can I find more information about immunisation?

A. The Australian Immunisation Handbook (current Edition) provides detailed information about immunisation. It can be found at www.immunise.health.gov.au

Q. Who can I contact if I wish to find out more information?

A. Contact your local Public Health Unit:

Greater Southern

(02) 6124 9942 or (02) 6080 8900
Queanbeyan Office Albury Office

Greater Western

(02) 6339 5601 or (02) 6841 5569
Bathurst Office Dubbo Office

(08) 8080 1499
Broken Hill Office

Hunter New England

(02) 4924 6477 or (02) 6767 8630
Newcastle Office Tamworth Office

North Coast

(02) 6588 2750 or (02) 6620 7500
Port Macquarie Office Lismore Office

Northern Sydney & Central Coast

(02) 9477 9400 or (02) 4349 4845
Hornsby Office Gosford Office

South Eastern Sydney & Illawarra

(02) 9382 8333 or (02) 4221 6700
Randwick Office Wollongong Office

Sydney South West

(02) 9515 9420
Camperdown Office

Sydney West

(02) 9840 3603 or (02) 4734 2022
Parramatta Office Penrith Office

Or visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au

Consent for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccination

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Teams of specially trained registered nurses will be visiting your child's school to offer measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If you wish to have your child vaccinated please complete all parts of this Consent Form and return it to the school.

The nurses will check your child on the day of the vaccination clinic. Children who are suffering from an acute illness with a fever will not be vaccinated.

If you have any questions regarding MMR vaccination or about completing this form please contact your local Public Health Unit (listed in Q&A in the 'Parent Information Kit').

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please complete all sections of this form with a blue/black pen.

Photocopies of this form will not be accepted.

If you wish to have your child vaccinated, complete all sections of this form and return it to the school within one week.

If you **DO NOT** wish to have your child vaccinated **DO NOT** return this form.

DISEASE	EFFECTS OF DISEASE	SIDE- EFFECTS OF VACCINATION
Measles is a highly infectious virus spread by droplets which causes fever, cough and rash.	1 in 25 children with measles develops pneumonia and 1 in 2,000 develops encephalitis (brain inflammation). For every 10 children who develop measles encephalitis, 1 will die, and 4 will have permanent brain damage. About 1 in 25,000 will develop brain degeneration, which is always fatal.	About 1 in 10 have discomfort, local inflammation or fever. About 1 in 100 develops a non- infectious rash 7 to 10 days after vaccination. 1 in 1 million recipients may develop encephalitis.
Mumps is a contagious virus spread by saliva. It causes swollen neck glands and fever.	1 in 200 children develops encephalitis. 1 in 5 males past puberty develops inflammation of the testes. Occasionally mumps causes infertility or deafness.	1 in 100 recipients may develop swelling of the salivary glands. 1 in 3 million develop mild encephalitis.
Rubella (German measles) is a contagious virus spread by droplets causing rash, fever and swollen glands. It causes severe malformations to babies of infected pregnant women.	About 5 in 10 patients develop a rash and painful swollen glands; 5 in 10 adolescents and adults have painful joints; 1 in 3,000 develops thrombocytopenia (bruising/ bleeding); 1 in 6,000 develops inflammation of the brain; 9 in 10 babies infected during the first 10 weeks after conception will have a major congenital abnormality (such as deafness, blindness, brain damage or heart defects).	About 1 in 10 have discomfort, local inflammation or fever. About 1 in 20 have swollen glands, stiff neck or joint pains. About 1 in 100 have a non-infectious rash. Thrombocytopenia occurs after a first dose of MMR at a rate of 1 in 30,500.

MMR Vaccination Consent Form

PARENT / GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE

Child's Surname

Child's Given Names Date of Birth

Name of School

Grade / Class

I have read and understood the information provided regarding the benefits and the possible side effects of the MMR vaccine and I hereby give consent for my child, named above, to be vaccinated.

I declare that my son / daughter / ward:

- a) Has not had an anaphylactic reaction following any vaccine
- b) Does not have an anaphylactic sensitivity to any of the MMR vaccine components (listed in Q&A in the 'Parent Information Kit').
- c) Is not suffering from a malignant disease (i.e. cancer)
- d) Is not suffering from a disease which lowers immunity (Leukaemia/AIDS)
- e) Is not receiving treatment with cortisone/prednisone drugs or immunosuppressive therapy including radiation
- f) Is not allergic to the antibiotic neomycin
- g) Has not had a blood transfusion / immunoglobulin injection within the past 3 months
- h) Has not had a live vaccine within the past 4 weeks (eg. BCG (tuberculosis) or yellow fever)
- i) Is not pregnant

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN

Home Address

Suburb Postcode

Phone Home Work

Mobile Date

Office Use Only – Nurse to complete and retain this section

Batch Number

Nurse Signature

Left Arm

Right Arm

STAMP

MMR Record of Vaccination

PARENT / GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE

Child's Surname

Child's Given Names

Name of School

Office Use Only

Left Arm

Right Arm

STAMP

Vaccine Batch Number

Nurse Signature

INSTRUCTIONS:

Women who have received MMR vaccine should not become pregnant for 28 days after vaccination.

Please keep this Record of Vaccination as you may be required to provide the information at a later date.

Advise your GP of the date that this vaccination was given so that your child's records are kept up to date.

What to do if reactions occur

A cold damp cloth on the sore spot may help to relieve pain and tenderness. Paracetamol may be given for pain. Give extra fluids to drink. If your child suffers a reaction or you are concerned, please contact your local doctor.