

4th September 2012

Re Prevention of Congenital Rubella Syndrome

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to ask you to target women, who are Rubella non-immune, at every opportunity, for vaccination with one dose of MMR:

- pre-conceptually,
and
- immediately following delivery (in Maternity Hospitals) whether primigravida or multigravida.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee recommends* that all seronegative women of child bearing age who need to be protected against rubella should be offered 1 dose of MMR vaccine.

Satisfactory evidence of protection includes documentation of having received at least one dose of rubella containing vaccine or a positive antibody test (IgG level >10IU/ mL) for rubella.

Pregnancy is a contraindication to MMR vaccination and pregnancy should be avoided for 1 month after MMR vaccination. Breast feeding is not a contraindication to MMR vaccination.

A new leaflet about preventing congenital rubella has been prepared and is now available on www.immunisation.ie along with a "Frequently Asked Questions" document for healthcare professionals.

Yours sincerely



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* <http://www.immunisation.ie/en/HealthcareProfessionals/ImmunisationGuidelines2008/>
(Rubella chapter updated September 2011)