



# MMR vaccine

## Information for parents of children aged 10 years and younger

### What is the name of the MMR vaccine?

The name of the MMR vaccine is either Priorix or MMRVaxPro.

### What diseases does the MMR vaccine protect against?

The MMR vaccine protects you or your child against measles, mumps and rubella (also called German measles).

Measles, mumps and rubella are caused by viruses and are highly infectious diseases. They are spread when the virus is passed from somebody who has the disease to somebody who has no protection against it.

Disease	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Measles	Fever Rash Red and painful eyes	Encephalitis (swelling of the brain) Pneumonia Bronchitis Ear infections
Mumps	Painful swollen glands under the jaw and fever	Meningitis Deafness Swollen, painful testicles in adult males
Rubella (German measles)	Fever and a rash	If a pregnant woman gets rubella, her baby may suffer from major birth defects including blindness, brain damage, deafness, heart problems and other serious complications

### When is MMR vaccine usually given?

In Ireland, children are given their first MMR vaccine at 12 months of age. Children get a second dose when they are 4-5 years of age usually in junior infants.

Two doses of MMR vaccine give the best protection.

If your child has received a dose of MMR before the age of 12 months, e.g. for travel, they still need to follow the above schedule and receive two further doses.

### MMR Catch-up

If your child has never had MMR vaccine before, they should get a dose as soon as possible and a second dose 1 month after the first dose.

If your child has had only one dose of the MMR vaccine, they should get a second dose one month or longer after the first dose.



## **Are there any children who should not get the MMR vaccine?**

There are very few children who should not get the MMR vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if:

- they have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MMR vaccine
- they have had a severe allergic reaction to any part of the vaccine or to neomycin or gelatin which are contained in MMR vaccine.
- babies under 12 months should not receive MMR vaccine if their mother was taking a medicine called infliximab throughout the pregnancy.
- babies who are being breastfed by mothers taking infliximab.

### **Delay getting the MMR vaccine if your child:**

- is ill with a high fever
- is on a high dose of medicines called corticosteroids
- is having treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- has an illness or disease that affects their immune system.

Your doctor or nurse can advise you if you need to delay getting vaccinated

### **Is there a link between the MMR vaccine and autism?**

No. Research has shown that there is no link between the MMR vaccine and autism.

### **Does the MMR vaccine have any side-effects?**

Most children have no problem after this vaccine. Side effects are much less common after a 2nd dose of MMR vaccine. Some children get an area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given. Rarely children may get “mini measles” with a rash and fever 6 to 10 days later. Children may get “mini-mumps” with swelling in the jaw area in the third week after vaccination. These are not contagious and pass after a few days.

You can give your child paracetamol or ibuprofen to relieve aches and pains or to lower fever.

### **More Information**

If you have any questions or queries, please discuss them with your GP, GP practice nurse or public health nurse.

Visit [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) to read more information about vaccines. Visit [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie) for information about these infectious diseases.

You can also find links to the patient information leaflets for the vaccines at [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie). Search for Priorix or MMRVaxPro (MMR) to read the relevant patient information leaflet.