



Information about measles

Measles

There have been cases of measles in your area.

Measles is a highly contagious virus that is spread by close contact with an infected person and causes fever, a cough and a rash. Measles can have severe complications, especially in children under 5 and adults over 20.

How can measles be prevented?

Vaccination with MMR vaccine is the only way to protect against measles.

Two doses of MMR vaccine are required to give the best protection.

The MMR Vaccine

What is the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine protects 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.

	Common Symptoms	Possible Complications
Measles	Fever Rash Red and painful eyes	Ear infections Pneumonia Bronchitis Encephalitis
Mumps	Painful Swollen glands under the jaw and fever	Meningitis Swollen, painful testicles in adult males Mumps during pregnancy can cause problems for the developing baby
Rubella	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





Information about measles

Who needs the MMR vaccine?

Children are given their first dose of MMR vaccine at 12 months of age. This is given by your GP.

Children should get a second dose at 4-5 years of age; this is given by school teams when your child is in junior infants.

Two doses of MMR vaccine gives the best protection.

What should adults and parents do?

Make sure you or your children are up to date with your MMR vaccines.

Please go to your GP for MMR vaccination if:

- you are under 40 and have not had 2 doses of MMR vaccine
- you have a preschool or primary school child who never had MMR vaccine
- you have a primary school child who missed out on the 2nd dose
- you are not sure if your child has had 2 doses of MMR vaccine

Is there anyone who should not get the MMR vaccine?

There are very few people who should not get the MMR vaccine. You or your child should not get the vaccine if they have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous MMR vaccine or to any of the contents of the vaccine.

You should delay getting the MMR vaccine if you or your child:

- is ill with a high temperature;
- is on high dose corticosteroids;
- is having treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy;
- has any illness or disease that affects their immune system.

What can you expect following vaccination?

After getting the vaccine, you or your child may have discomfort, redness or swelling around the area where the injection was given. Your child may be irritable and have a fever.

If this happens you can give your child liquid infant paracetamol or infant ibuprofen. You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection area.

Children usually recover from these minor side effects within a day or two

If 1,000 people are immunised:

- 100 will have discomfort, redness or swelling where the injection was given, or will have a fever
- 50 will get a rash six to 10 days later (this is not contagious).





Information about measles

- 1 in 1000 will have a convulsion 1 in 22,000 will get a temporary blood clotting problem / bruising or bleeding
- 1 in 10,000,000 may develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Serious side effects are very rare.

More Information

If you have any queries about you or your child's vaccinations please discuss this with your GP or public health nurse.

Visit www.immunisation.ie

