



Date: 14 May 2025

Reference: NCO-13-2025

MMR Vaccination Programme Update

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your participation in the MMR catch-up vaccination programme to date.

The HSE's National Health Protection Office has been leading on the National response to measles through the National Measles Incident Management Team (IMT), since January 2024. At its most recent meeting in April 2025, the IMT noted the escalating threat of measles globally including large ongoing outbreaks in Romania, Morocco and the USA, as well as cases occurring in locations popular with Irish tourists such as southern Spain, France and Italy. This is particularly important as we approach the summer holiday season with increased travel to and from Ireland. With this in mind, the IMT continue to recommend:

- That all Irish people travelling abroad should be age appropriately vaccinated against measles.
- That one dose of MMR vaccine should be offered to infants aged six to less than 12 months of age prior to travel abroad.

GPs can continue to provide opportunistic MMR vaccination to their patients as follows:

- Pre-travel MMR - before travelling abroad infants aged six months to less than 12 months of age should receive one dose of MMR vaccine prior to travelling, as per [NIAC Guidance](#) Chapter 12- Measles.
- Opportunistic vaccination in those aged 18 to 46 who are under or unvaccinated and present for vaccination.
- MMR catch-up vaccination to children (under 18 years) who are not up to date with their MMR vaccinations

MMR vaccinations administered should be recorded and reimbursed through the routine Primary Childhood Immunisation process. Area-specific outbreak codes are available to vaccinate those in need of MMR but not eligible under the PCI programme. The MMR outbreak codes are detailed in Appendix 1.



Clinical guidance is available through the National Immunisation Office at immunisation@hse.ie.

For any queries in relation to the MMR arrangements outlined, please contact the National Contracts Office at natcontractsoffice@hse.ie.

Other catch-up vaccines

During the normal course of events, GPs may also provide other catch-up vaccines in line with the existing framework for Primary Childhood Immunisations.

For more information on catch-up schedules, please visit:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/frequentlyaskedquestions/catchupvacc/>

For more information on providing age-appropriate vaccination for BOTP and IPA migrant children, please visit

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/botpipa/>

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat Healy', written over a horizontal line.

Pat Healy

National Director

National Services and Schemes



Appendix 1 – MMR outbreak codes

MMR area specific outbreak codes:

Area Specific MMR outbreak codes
E-MMR-2025
NE-MMR-2025
NW-MMR-2025
W-MMR-2025
ML-MMR-2025
MW-MMR-2025
S-MMR-2025
SE-MMR-2025