



MMR vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine. Please familiarise yourself with the information in the *Measles, Mumps, and Rubella* chapters in the Immunisation Handbook 2017, including the contraindications and precautions for this vaccine.

Can we routinely give the MMR vaccine to infants under 12 months of age?

No. This can only be done if a recommendation is made by a Medical Officer of Health. If given, this is considered dose zero. The infant will still require two doses of MMR vaccine from 12 months of age.

Can we give the MMR vaccine to infants earlier than 15 months?

Yes. The MMR vaccine can be given from 12 months of age along with the 15 month varicella, pneumococcal and Hib vaccines at a parent's request. The second MMR can be given as soon as four weeks after the first dose.

If we give the 15 month MMR vaccine early, can we give the 15 month varicella, pneumococcal and Hib vaccines early as well?

Yes. The 15 month Schedule varicella, pneumococcal and Hib vaccines are considered valid doses when given from 12 months of age.

Can we give the 4 year MMR vaccine early?

Yes. The second dose of measles vaccine can be given as soon as four weeks after the first dose.

If the 4 year MMR vaccine dose is given early, does the child need it again at age 4 years?

No. Only two doses of MMR vaccine are required if they are both given from 12 months of age. The second MMR vaccine is a revaccination for the 5–10% of individuals who fail to become protected against measles after the first dose. Nearly all individuals will be protected after the second dose.

If we give the 4 year MMR early, can we give the 4 year DTaP-IPV early as well?

No. It is important to wait until the child is 4 years of age to give the DTaP-IPV to ensure the child has some protection against pertussis through their primary school years.

Should older children who have missed one or both doses of the MMR vaccine still have the vaccine?

Yes. A total of two documented doses of MMR vaccine are recommended for all children and adults born after 1968. M-M-R® II and Priorix® are fully interchangeable. When two doses of MMR are required, they can be given a minimum of four weeks apart.

The child has received a measles only or measles/rubella vaccine overseas. Do they still need the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Two doses of the MMR vaccine given from 12 months of age are recommended irrespective of previous measles vaccination.

The parents think the child has had measles. Do they still need the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended unless the child has immunity to all three diseases covered by the vaccine confirmed by serology.

The child has an egg allergy. Can they have the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Neither egg allergy nor anaphylaxis are contraindications for receipt of the MMR vaccine.

The child's mum is pregnant. Is it OK for the child to have the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Viruses in the MMR vaccine are considered to be non-transmissible. It is also important to reduce the risk of the mother being exposed to wild measles.

Can adults also have the MMR vaccine if they have no measles immunity?

Yes. The MMR vaccine is recommended for any individual who is susceptible to any one of the three diseases covered by the vaccine. Adults born before 1969 are considered to be immune to measles as they were highly likely to have been exposed to the measles virus when they were young.

What do we do when a woman's antenatal rubella serology result reports she is not immune to rubella?

A woman is considered to be immune to rubella if she has two documented doses of a rubella-containing vaccine given at least four weeks apart and given after age 12 months, regardless of serology.

If she does not have two documented doses of rubella containing vaccine, administer catch-up doses of MMR vaccine after the baby has been delivered. When two doses of MMR are required, they can be given a minimum of four weeks apart.

Can a pregnant woman have the MMR vaccine?

No. Live vaccines must not be given to pregnant women.

Can a breastfeeding woman have the MMR vaccine?

Yes. There is no risk to the mother or child from giving MMR to breastfeeding women. However, pregnancy should be avoided for 28 days following the MMR vaccine.

Is there a single antigen measles vaccine available in New Zealand?

No. The measles vaccine is only available as one of the components of the MMR vaccine in New Zealand.

Are M-M-R II and Priorix interchangeable?

Yes. M-M-R II and Priorix are fully interchangeable. The doses must be given a minimum of four weeks apart.