



Why have we been asked to limit MMR vaccination to priority groups?

The Ministry of Health has asked general practices and PHOs to reserve vaccine for the priority groups to ensure that the most vulnerable people can be protected, the Auckland outbreak is controlled, and outbreaks elsewhere are prevented through active management of isolated cases.

Where do we find information about the priority groups?

The current MMR vaccination priority groups are described on the [Measles and MMR vaccination information](#) hot topic page on our website, and in the printable fact sheet *MMR vaccination priority groups during the 2019 measles outbreaks* that can be downloaded from our website.

What do we do about MMR vaccination for non-priority groups?

Please add a recall in the PMS to contact those who request MMR vaccination but are not able to receive it at this time.

When stocks are secure, practices should offer MMR vaccine to all those who need it, to bring them up to two documented doses as per the Schedule.

Vaccination information

Maintenance of the Childhood Immunisation Schedule is the priority.

Can we give the MMR vaccine to infants aged under 12 months?

Infants aged 6–11 months can receive MMR vaccination:

Within the Auckland region

Practices are asked to actively recall infants for MMR vaccination when they are aged 6–11 months. Please refer to the printable fact sheet *Quick answers to frequent MMR for infants aged 6–11 months questions* that can be downloaded from our website.

Outside the Auckland region

- » If they are travelling overseas to a country with a measles outbreak or Auckland.
- » If they are a contact of a confirmed case **within 72 hours of first exposure** to measles.
- » On parental request if there are concerns about a high-risk of exposure to measles and their GP advises administration of MMR.

MMR vaccine use in infants aged 6–11 months

Priorix®

- » The administration of Priorix® to infants aged 6–11 months is off-label. There are no safety concerns.
- » Every dose needs to be individually prescribed.
- » Priorix cannot be administered to infants aged 6–11 months under a standing order.

M-M-R® II

- » Authorised vaccinators in primary care can administer the M-M-R II vaccine to infants aged 6–11 months without an individual prescription.
- » M-M-R II can be administered to infants aged 6–11 months under a standing order in any community based targeted immunisation programmes.

MMR administered at 6–11 months of age is considered dose zero (MMR0)

- » The infant will still require the 15-months and 4-years MMR vaccinations as per the Schedule.

How do we enter MMR0 into the PMS and claim?

- » Enter the dose on the NIR using your PMS 'MMR at-risk', 'MMR misc' or 'MMR primary' vaccine option.
- » Leave the Schedule 15-months and 4-years MMR vaccinations as to be given in the future.
- » Ensure 'Autobill' is selected as an Immunisation Subsidy can be claimed.
- » If the MMR 'at-risk', 'misc' or 'primary' vaccine option has not been activated in your PMS, contact the PMS provider for advice.

Infants aged under 6 months

These infants are too young to receive an MMR vaccination. The vaccination is less likely to be effective due to interference from maternal antibody that is received in utero.

Can we give the MMR vaccination due at 15 months early?

Children aged 12–14 months who live outside the Auckland region

Children in this age group, who are travelling to a country with a measles outbreak or Auckland are advised to receive all four vaccines due at 15 months from 12 months of age.

For other children in this group, on-time immunisation at 15 months of age is recommended. However, all four vaccines due at 15 months can be given from 12 months of age on parental request.

Can we give the 4-years MMR vaccine early?

The second MMR vaccine dose is recommended to be given on-time at 4 years of age.

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

No. Only two doses of MMR vaccine are required if they are both given from 12 months of age and at least a month apart. 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 years MMR vaccine dose early, can we give 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.

Catch-up MMR vaccination – current priority groups

Children aged from 16 months to under 5 years except Auckland (13 months to under 5 years in Auckland)

Continue to recall children in these age groups who are overdue for their Schedule immunisations.

Children aged 5 years to under 15 years except Southern DHB

Opportunistically offer one catch-up dose of MMR to children in this age group who do not have one documented MMR vaccination. We recommend you contact anyone in this age group who is on your MMR waiting list.

Children aged 5 years to under 18 years in Southern DHB

Actively recall children aged 5 years to under 18 years who do not have one documented MMR vaccination.

Young people aged 15–29 years in Northland and Auckland

Opportunistically offer one catch-up dose of MMR to young people in this age group who do not have one documented MMR vaccination. Please add a recall in the PMS to contact those who require a second catch-up MMR vaccination when vaccine supply is secure.

Can young people aged 18–29 years who are living in Northland and Auckland and not eligible to receive publicly funded healthcare buy MMR vaccine?

No. There is no MMR vaccine stock available for purchase. Administer the MMR vaccine to these adults. It should be prescribed in their medical notes by their doctor.

How do we enter catch-up doses of MMR into the PMS and claim?

In the PMS immunisation section, go to 'Schedule selection tab 3' and select 'MMR schedule – Adult eligible', then go to 'Immunisation tab 1' and select MMR1 to enter the first catch-up dose of MMR vaccine. Ensure 'Autobill' is selected as an Immunisation Subsidy can be claimed.

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Catch-up MMR vaccination – current non-priority groups Young people and adults aged 15–50 years except Northland and Auckland (18–50 years in Southern DHB)

MMR vaccination is not currently prioritised for this group. Based on clinical judgement and whether the practice has sufficient vaccine without impacting on the stock needed for their priority groups, clinicians are able to vaccinate outside of the priority groups. For those who request MMR vaccination but are not able to receive it at this time, please add a recall in the PMS.

Adults born before 1969 in New Zealand or overseas

Adults in this age group are not recommended to receive MMR vaccination. Generally, they are considered to be immune to measles.

No measles vaccine was available in New Zealand until 1969 and measles is so infectious that people born before this were highly likely to be exposed. For those born overseas, it is fairly similar as most countries introduced a measles vaccine in the late 1960s, 1970s or later.

Should we order serology to check for measles immunity?

No. Evidence of immunity for adults born prior to 1969 is simply being born before 1969. Evidence of immunity for adults born in 1969 or later is two documented doses of MMR vaccine.

Do adults aged 18 years or over need MMR revaccination if they have had chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer?

If the person was considered immune before chemotherapy, they are still considered immune to measles, mumps and rubella after completion of treatment and immune system recovery.

Chemotherapy and radiotherapy for cancer does not remove immune system memory cells.

Adults born prior to 1969

» Are considered immune to measles. Vaccinating these adults post-chemotherapy is not indicated.

Adults born 1969 or later

- » Who have two documented doses of MMR are considered immune. No more MMR vaccinations are required.
- » Who have one documented dose of MMR prior to chemotherapy should receive a second dose of MMR vaccine,[†] OR
- » Who do not have any documented doses of MMR vaccine should receive two doses of MMR vaccine[†] six months post-chemotherapy and when their lymphocyte count is $>1.0 \times 10^9/L$.

[†]MMR vaccination is not currently prioritised for this age group.

- » Please add a recall in the PMS to contact those who request MMR vaccination but are not able to receive it at this time.

Only pre-HSCT (stem cell or bone marrow transplant) conditioning completely remove a person's immune system including memory cells. Re-vaccination with MMR vaccine usually occurs 2 years post-HSCT.

Do children who received a measles only or measles/rubella vaccine overseas need MMR vaccination?

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

Do children who have had measles still need to receive the MMR vaccine?

Yes. Two doses of MMR vaccine are recommended to protect the child from mumps and rubella.

How long after having measles can a child receive vaccines?

A child can receive their Schedule vaccines, including MMR and varicella vaccines, as soon as they are due if the child is not acutely unwell.

Can a person with an egg allergy receive the MMR vaccine?

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

Can a close contact of a woman who is pregnant or of a person who is immunocompromised receive the MMR vaccine?

Yes. MMR vaccine viruses are considered to be non-transmissible. It is also important to reduce the risk of the mother and those who are immunocompromised being exposed to measles disease.

Can a pregnant woman receive the MMR vaccine?

No. Live vaccines are not given to pregnant women. However, if an MMR vaccine is given in error there are international data that can reassure the woman the vaccination is not expected to cause harm to the fetus.

What happens if a woman receives MMR vaccine and then finds out she was pregnant at the time or within 4 weeks of the vaccination?

No additional pregnancy monitoring or management is required. There are international data that can reassure the woman the vaccination is not expected to cause harm to the fetus. The advice not to give MMR vaccine to a woman who knows she is pregnant is based on a theoretical risk that the vaccine viruses could cause maternal or fetal disease.

How soon after having a baby can a woman receive the MMR vaccine?

As soon as baby has been delivered.

Can a breastfeeding woman receive the MMR vaccine?

Yes. There is no risk to the mother or child from giving MMR to breastfeeding women.

Can a person who is immunocompromised receive the MMR vaccine?

No. If your patient has a medical condition or is on a treatment that affects their immune system, refer to sections 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 22.6.2, and table 22.2 in the *Immunisation Handbook 2017 2nd Edition* for more information on treatments and timing of vaccination.

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. There is no immunological or medical reason for offering a single measles vaccine and it is important to offer protection for rubella and mumps.

Are Priorix[®] and M-M-R II[®] interchangeable?

Yes. Priorix[®] and M-M-R[®] II are fully interchangeable to complete a course of MMR vaccination. The doses must be given a minimum of four weeks apart. There are no safety concerns associated with the use of either vaccine.

The vaccine brand used determines whether an authorised vaccinator requires a doctor's prescription to administer the vaccine or not. Please refer to the section **MMR vaccine use in infants aged 6–11 months** on page one of this fact sheet.