



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do my other children need to have the MMR vaccine?

If you are not sure whether your other children are up to date with their MMR immunisations then check with your GP practice and make an appointment for them to receive the MMR vaccine if needed. Children up to the age of 18 and young adults can have a 'catch up' vaccine free on the NHS.

Do adults also need to have the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine can also be given on the NHS to adults who may need it, including people born from 1970-79 who may have only been vaccinated against measles, as well as those born from 1980-90 who may not be protected against mumps. Check with your GP if you're not sure whether you've had the MMR vaccine. If in doubt, go ahead and have it. Even if you've had it before, it won't harm you to have a second, or even third, course of the vaccination.

My child had single measles vaccine in the past – do they still need MMR?

The protection from single vaccines cannot be guaranteed. We recommend that MMR immunisation is still needed even if your child had single measles vaccines in the past.

Does the MMR vaccine contain pork (porcine) gelatin?

There are two MMR vaccines available – one contains porcine (Vaxpro) and one has no porcine in it (Priorix). If you have any concerns, please speak to your GP and they can make sure you get a vaccine without porcine (Priorix). It may be helpful to let them know when you book your appointment.

I think my child is up to date with their MMR immunisations – what should I do?

Our records are sometimes incorrect – please ask your GP practice to contact the Child Health department to update the information.

How does the MMR work?

The MMR vaccine contains weakened versions of live measles, mumps and rubella viruses. The vaccine works by triggering the immune system to produce antibodies against measles, mumps and rubella.

If you or your child then comes into contact with one of the diseases, the immune system will recognise it and immediately produce the antibodies needed to fight it.

It's not possible for people who have recently had the MMR vaccine to infect other people.

I think my child has measles what should I do?

If your child becomes unwell and think it could be measles you should ring the doctor or walk in clinic beforehand so they can make sure you do not pass the disease to others in the waiting room.

Where can I get more information?

You can talk to your GP practice or Health visitor – alternatively visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>