

MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR) VACCINE INFORMATION

(MMR®II or Priorix® Vaccine)

WHAT IS MEASLES DISEASE AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Measles causes a full body rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes, and/or middle ear infections. In severe cases, can result in hearing loss, lung infection, swelling of the brain, brain damage or death. Measles is spread very easily by respiratory droplets through talking, coughing, or sneezing.

WHAT IS MUMPS DISEASE AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Mumps causes swelling in the salivary glands around the jaws and cheeks, fever, headache, and/or pain when chewing and swallowing. Complications from mumps can include inflammation of the testicles or ovaries; pancreatitis, hearing loss and swelling of the brain. Infection in the first trimester of pregnancy can result in miscarriage. Mumps can be spread from contact with respiratory droplets.

WHAT IS RUBELLA DISEASE AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Rubella is generally a mild disease in children and may cause mild fever, red eyes, red rash and swollen glands. Rubella in a pregnant woman can cause congenital rubella syndrome in developing babies which can result in miscarriage, stillbirth and/or fetal malformation. It is transmitted by respiratory droplets.

HOW CAN MEASLES, MUMPS, AND RUBELLA BE PREVENTED?

- Vaccination is the best protection against disease. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective
- The province of Ontario covers the cost of this vaccine for children aged four to 12 years of age

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE?

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Very mild symptoms of the disease, but this is rare. These mild symptoms are not dangerous and can demonstrate that the vaccine is working effectively to build immunity
- Severe side effects are rare

PUBLIC HEALTH

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WHO SHOULD AVOID THIS IMMUNIZATION?

- People who have had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to MMR vaccine in the past
- People who have an allergy to any component of the vaccine including neomycin or porcine gelatin*
- People who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant
- People with a problem with their immune system due to illness or medication
- People who have received a live vaccine in the previous six weeks or a blood product within the past three months

WHO SHOULD CONSULT THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEFORE VACCINATION?

- People with complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines should consult their health care provider before receiving the MMR vaccine

* This vaccine is approved for use in members of religious groups who oppose the ingestion of pig products.
Reference: www.vaccinesafety.edu/religion-and-vaccines