

April 17, 2019

MMR Vaccine Recommendations

Measles continues to spread globally including in North America. To prevent the spread of measles, one dose of MMR vaccine provides about 85% protection and two doses provide greater than 95% protection.

Publicly funded MMR vaccine can be provided based on the following recommendations:

Age Group	MMR Vaccine Recommendations
Infants and children NOT travelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give one dose of MMR vaccine on or after the child's first birthday. ▪ Give MMRV vaccine as the second dose at age 4-6 years. ▪ Where possible, give second dose of MMRV closer to age 4 than age 6.
Infants and children travelling to areas where measles is circulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infants: MMR vaccine can be given at 6 -12 months of age. Two additional doses of measles containing vaccine are still required after the first birthday. ▪ Preschoolers: Consider giving the second dose of MMR vaccine earlier than age 4-6 years.*# ▪ Ideally, give measles vaccine at least two weeks before travel.
Born before 1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally considered to have natural immunity since measles was circulating in Canada before 1970. Some of these individuals may be susceptible. ▪ Individuals who work in a healthcare setting must show proof of immunity (record of two doses of MMR vaccine OR serology). ▪ Post-secondary students and travellers should consider getting at least one dose of MMR vaccine.
Born in 1970 or later	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If unknown status, give two doses of MMR vaccine at least 28 days apart. ▪ If client only had one dose of MMR vaccine, give the second dose of MMR vaccine at least 28 days after the first dose. ▪ If client had two-doses of MMR vaccine, consider fully immunized – no serology required.
All others	<p>All Ontarians, regardless of date of birth, are eligible for two publicly funded doses of measles-containing vaccine based on the health care provider's clinical judgment and the needs of the patient. Note: Vaccination over serology is generally preferred.</p>

*MMR is a live virus vaccine. Two live virus vaccines can be given on the same day or at least 28 days apart. The exception is with MMRV and MMR vaccine which must be given 6 weeks apart according to the ISPA.

#Preschool children who are given their 2nd MMR before 4-6 years of age can then receive their 2nd varicella-only vaccine at age 4-6 years (not MMRV).

NOTE: Women who are breastfeeding can be vaccinated with MMR vaccine.

Source: [Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule](#), [Canadian Immunization Guide](#)