

**Q: When did the vaccine for measles become available?**

A: The first measles vaccines were available in 1963, and were replaced with a much better vaccine in 1968.

**Q: Do people who received MMR in the 1960s need to have their dose repeated?**

A: Not necessarily. People who have documentation of receiving a live measles vaccine in the 1960s do not need to be revaccinated. People who were vaccinated with a killed or inactivated measles vaccine, or vaccine of unknown type, should be revaccinated with at least 1 dose of MMR.

**Q: What kind of vaccine is it?**

A: The vaccines available in the United States that protect against measles are the MMR and MMRV, which protects against measles, mumps, and rubella or measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (chickenpox). They are both live attenuated, or weakened, vaccines.

**Q: Which vaccine can I get, the MMR or the MMRV?**

A: The MMRV is only approved for people aged 12 months – 12 years.

The MMR is approved for anyone 6 months of age and older, but it is routinely recommended for use in people 12 months of age and older. Any dose of MMR received before 12 months of age is not considered valid and should be repeated in 4 weeks or at age 12 months, whichever is later.

**Q: How is the vaccine given?**

A: The vaccine is administered in the fatty layer of tissue underneath the skin.

**Q: Is the measles shot just a one-time dose?**

A: The measles vaccine is very effective. About 95% of adults are protected after receiving just one dose of the measles vaccine. However, because approximately 5% of adults are not protected after one dose, it is recommended that a second dose be given to make sure you are protected against measles.

**Q: When should I get the second dose of MMR?**

A: The second dose can be given as early as 28 days (4 weeks) after your first dose.

**Q: Who should get the measles vaccine?**

A: All children, adolescents, and adults born in 1957 or later should have documentation of vaccination or other evidence of immunity, such as a blood test or a documented history of disease.

**Q: Who should not get the measles vaccine?**

A:

- Anyone who has had a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction after a previous dose of MMR or to any vaccine component should not receive the vaccine.
- People who are immunocompromised (cancer, chemotherapy, immunosuppressive therapy, HIV infection) should not be vaccinated.
- Women who are pregnant, or planning to become pregnant within the next month, should not be vaccinated until after delivery.

- People with life-threatening, anaphylactic allergies to any vaccine components such as neomycin or gelatin should not receive the vaccine.
- If you are sick or have had a reaction to a previous dose of vaccine, please speak to your doctor about whether or not you should be vaccinated.

**Q: I am allergic to egg, can I receive the vaccine?**

A: In the past it was believed that people who were allergic to eggs would be at risk of an allergic reaction from the vaccine because the vaccine is grown in tissue from chick embryos. However, recent studies have shown that this is not the case. MMR may be given to egg-allergic individuals without prior testing or use of special precautions.

**Q: I can't remember if I got the measles shot as a child. What do I do?**

A: If you were born before 1957, you most likely had the disease as a small child and are protected against getting infected again.

If you were born in 1957 or later, and don't have your shot record, visit your primary care physician. Your doctor can perform a simple blood test, called Rubeola IgG, to test to see whether or not you are protected against the disease. Your doctor may also recommend that you receive the measles shot.

**Q: Why are people born before 1957 considered protected or immune?**

A: People born before 1957 lived through several years of epidemic measles before the first vaccine was available. As a result, these people are very likely to have had the measles disease. Of those people born before 1957, 95 – 98% are immune to measles.

**Q: I'm an adult without any health insurance but the vaccine is so expensive. Do you know where I can get the vaccine at a reasonable price?**

A: There is a vaccine program in Texas for adults without health insurance. What county do you live in and I will help you locate the nearest clinic that offers this program.

Find ASN locations here: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/ASN/> or call (800) 252-9152.

**Q: If someone in the house is pregnant or immune compromised, is it safe for my child to be vaccinated with the MMR shot?**

A: Yes. Measles vaccine viruses are weakened and are not passed from the vaccinated person to other household members who may be at an increased risk.

**Q: I heard that the MMR shot causes autism, is this true?**

A: There is no scientific evidence that any vaccine, including MMR, causes autism.

**Q: Can this live-virus vaccine cause measles?**

A: Because the viruses in the MMR vaccine are weakened, they may cause a very mild case of the disease – for instance a rash. However, it is much milder than the natural disease and you are not considered contagious. No exclusions from school or work are necessary.