



Renfrew County and
District Health Unit

FACT SHEET

MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, VARICELLA (MMRV)

Vaccination against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella is required for all children attending school in Ontario. MMRV is a combined vaccine that protects against measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) and varicella (chicken pox).

What are Measles?

Measles is one of the most highly communicable infectious diseases. It can be a serious infection. It causes high fever, cough, rash, runny nose and watery eyes. It can be complicated by ear infections, pneumonia and infection of the brain (encephalitis). Measles spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing or simply talking.

What are Mumps?

Mumps is an infection of the salivary glands. It causes fever, headache and swelling of the cheek, jaw and neck. Complications of mumps include; meningitis, deafness, painful swollen testicles in males and infection of the ovaries in females. Mumps spreads through coughing, sneezing and by contact with the saliva of an infected person.

What is Rubella (German Measles)?

Rubella is generally a mild infection. It causes fever, sore throat, swollen glands in the neck and a rash on the face and neck. Rubella can be followed by chronic arthritis. It can also cause temporary blood clotting problems and encephalitis. Rubella spreads through coughing, sneezing or talking and by contact with the saliva of an infected person.



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What is Varicella (Chickenpox)?

Chickenpox is a common illness caused by the varicella-zoster virus. It causes fatigue, mild headache, fever, chills and muscle or joint aches. The raised itchy red blisters can be anywhere on the body. The spots are like small water blisters. Some people have only a few blisters while others can have as many as 500. Complications of chickenpox can include skin, ear and spinal cord infections, pneumonia, and encephalitis. Chickenpox is very contagious; you can get chickenpox if you touch a blister or the liquid from a blister. You can also get chickenpox if you touch the spit of a person who has chickenpox. It also spreads through the air from someone with chickenpox who is coughing or sneezing.

At what age should my child be vaccinated with MMRV vaccine?

In Ontario, children are eligible to receive the publicly funded MMRV vaccine from 4 to 12 years of age. They should receive the vaccine between the ages of 4 – 6 years.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. Serious side effects are rare there is a small risk for febrile (fever) seizures in children who have received the vaccine. Most children will have no side effects. Some common side effects include redness, swelling and pain where the needle was given. Fever and/or rash can occur 5 to 26 days after getting the vaccine. The rash can be a blotchy red rash and/or spots that look like blisters.

When should I call my health care provider?

Call your health care provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if your child has any of the following reactions within 3 days of receiving the vaccine;

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- high fever (over 40°C)
- convulsions or seizures

Who should not get MMRV vaccine?

Children should not receive the vaccine if they have:

- Children who are ill with a fever or infection worse than a common cold.
- Children who have had an allergic reaction to the vaccine or something in the vaccine. (gelatin, neomycin and sorbitol)
- Anaphylaxis to MMRV vaccine

Consult your health care provider if you have: a weakened immune system or take medications that suppress the immune system

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit Health Info Line at **613-735-8666** or **1-800-267-1097 Ext. 666**.

How do I keep track of this vaccination?

After you get any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record, such as your "Yellow Card", is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

To contact us or for more information	
	613-735-8653 or 1-800-267-1097
	www.rcdhu.com Healthy Living Immunization
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 	@RCDHealthunit

Source: Adapted from The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, (July 2011). MMRV Vaccine Questions and Answers for Parents and Caregivers.

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