



Measles

*Information Leaflet for the
Traveller Community*

April 2010



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



INFORMATION ON *Measles*

Measles affects children and adults.

Measles is a highly infectious illness and spreads very easily.

Symptoms of Measles:

- **High fever**
- **Cough**
- **Runny nose**
- **Red eyes**
- **Red rash that starts on the head and moves down the body**

Measles can cause chest infections, fits, ear infections, swelling of the brain and brain damage.

Measles is worst for children under one year of age, pregnant women, and people with poor immunity.



MEASLES IN *Ireland*

More than 300 people have had measles in Ireland recently. This has been among young children and teenagers especially in the Traveller community.

Measles can be very serious and can cause blindness and even death.

Children can get measles if they have not been injected with the MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine).

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MY FAMILY *from measles?*

Every parent wants to keep their children safe. The MMR injection is the safest way to protect children from measles.



Children should get the MMR injection at 12 months of age and again at 4 to 5 years of age.

You are protected against measles if you have had 2 MMR vaccines or if you have already had the measles infection

WHAT IF I AM UNSURE IF I HAVE HAD *the vaccine?*

If you are unsure if your child has been injected for MMR, you can have your records checked by your doctor.

IT IS SAFE TO HAVE THE *injection again.*

If you have any concerns be sure to talk to your doctor or Public Health Nurse — no matter what the question is.

***The MMR vaccine
does not cause
autism.***

WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY *has Measles?*

Phone your doctor immediately.

The sooner they are seen the better.

Keep the child at home and stop visitors coming to your home unless they know they are protected against measles (they have had two doses of MMR or have had a previous history of measles).

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY FAMILY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE *with measles?*

Any child or adult up to 30 years of age who is not fully vaccinated or has never had measles needs to be vaccinated immediately (ideally within 3 days).

Children between 1 and 5 years, who have had one MMR injection when they were a baby, should go to their doctor for their second MMR injection.

Babies between 6 months and one year will be given their first MMR early, but may need their usual dose at 12 months.

Ask your doctor's advice on this.

If you have any questions or concerns about vaccines contact your own doctor or your local Health Office for immunisation advice or the HSE Info Line.



HSE Info Line: 1850 24 1850

Local Health Office telephone numbers are available at:

http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/Find_a_Service/LHO/

Acknowledgements:

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