

Aotearoa New Zealand is at very high risk of a measles outbreak. There’s a risk of getting measles if you have not had 2 vaccinations, or have not already had measles.

The measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine is **FREE** for all children in New Zealand, and all adults over the age of 18 years who are eligible for free healthcare in New Zealand.

This form has two sections

- 1. Information about immunisation
- 2. A consent form for you to fill out and return to school.

What does the vaccination protect you from?

Measles is a very infectious virus. Before immunisation was introduced, nearly all children caught measles. Measles causes a rash, high fever, runny nose, cough and sore watery eyes. Severe cases can result in pneumonia, encephalitis (swelling in the brain), diarrhoea and rarely, death.

Mumps is caused by a virus and is spread through the air. Mumps causes fever, headache and swelling of the glands around the face. In males mumps can cause swelling of the testicles and in rare cases, infertility. Mumps can also cause meningitis and encephalitis (swelling in the brain).

Unimmunised children exposed to measles or mumps need to be kept home from school.

Rubella is usually a mild, viral illness. It causes a rash, fever and swollen glands in children. It is extremely dangerous for pregnant women because it can cause deafness, blindness and brain damage in an unborn baby.

Immunisation is your best protection

The measles (MMR) vaccine we use in New Zealand is Priorix. This vaccine protects against measles, mumps, and rubella.

Priorix is a live vaccine. Live vaccines contain bacteria or viruses that have been weakened so that they cannot cause disease. This small amount of virus or bacteria stimulates an immune response. The vaccine works by causing the body to make antibodies that fight these diseases.

There is no ‘measles only’ vaccine available in New Zealand. It is not possible to separate these diseases out of the vaccine.

The vaccination is given as an injection in the upper arm. For best protection against measles 2 doses of the MMR vaccine are needed at least 4 weeks apart.

MMR immunisation is also available **FREE** from family doctors, some pharmacists, and local health centres.

How effective is the vaccine?

Two doses of MMR will protect 99% of people against measles and rubella, and around 85% of people from mumps. A small number of people who are immunised may still become ill. If that happens, they usually get a milder illness than people who have not been immunised.

Who needs to be vaccinated?

If you’re not sure whether your rangatahi (young person) has had two doses of MMR, it’s still recommended they get vaccinated. There are no additional safety concerns with having extra doses.

Most rangatahi will have been given at least one dose of MMR in early childhood. However, changes to the Immunisation Schedule in 2001 and less effective reminder systems in previous years mean that many rangatahi are not fully protected.

If you have come from overseas, including the Pacific Islands, you may have had different vaccines that may not protect you against measles, mumps and rubella.

If you’re not sure that they are fully immunised, check their Well Child/ Tamariki Ora / Plunket book or contact their medical centre/ healthcare provider to make sure they have had **BOTH** doses of the MMR vaccine.

If your rangatahi haven’t had both doses, or you’re not sure, play it safe and get them immunised.

Who shouldn’t be immunised?

There are very few people who shouldn’t be immunised. Talk to their doctor, vaccinator or healthcare provider before signing this form if your child:

- has had a serious reaction to a vaccine in the past
- is being treated for cancer or other severe illness
- has had a blood transfusion or other blood products in the last year.

MMR immunisation is not recommended during pregnancy.

Side effects and reactions

Like most medicines, vaccines can sometimes cause reactions. These are usually mild, and not everyone will get them. Mild reactions are normal and show that your child’s immune system is responding to the vaccine.

What you may feel	What can help
Swelling and pain at the injection site (hard and sore to touch)	Place a cold wet cloth, or ice pack where the injection was given. Leave it on for a short time.
Heavy arm	Do not rub the injection site.
Nausea (feeling sick)	
Headache, aches and pains	
Dizziness	
Mild rash (between 6 and 12 days after immunisation)	Rest and drink plenty of fluids.
High fever (over 39°C – between 6 and 12 days after immunisation)	Give paracetamol or ibuprofen for relief of significant discomfort or high fever as instructed by your vaccinator or healthcare provider.
Swollen glands in the cheeks, neck, or under the jaw	Removing layers of clothing can help reduce fever.
Temporary joint pain (2 to 4 weeks after immunisation)	
A very rare side effect is bruise-like spots that appear 15 days to 6 weeks after immunisation. This is mild, and usually goes away within 6 months.	

Allergic reactions

Serious allergic reactions (known as anaphylaxis) are extremely rare. Only about 1 in 1 million people will experience this.

The vaccinator is well-trained and knows what to look for and can treat an allergic reaction quickly if it happens.

Serious allergic reactions normally happen soon after the vaccination is given, this is why people need to wait for up to 20 minutes after immunisation.

Tips to prepare for vaccination

- Eating before and after will make you less likely to feel faint or dizzy.
- Wear a loose shirt with short sleeves so the vaccinator can easily access the upper arm.
- Tell the vaccinating team if you are feeling scared or anxious. They can help you with this.
- Take things easy after the immunisation as your arm might be a bit sore.

MMR immunisation consent form

Fill out **Section A** if you **DO** consent. Fill out **Section B** if you **DO NOT** consent.

SECTION A: Your child's details

SchoolRoom name or number

SurnameFirst name

Middle name(s)Other surname(s)

Date of birthDAYMONTHYEARIs your child (tick one)☐ Male☐ Female☐ Gender diverse

Home addressPostcode

Which ethnic group(s) does your child most closely identify with? (You may tick more than one.)

☐ NZ European☐ Māori☐ Samoan☐ Cook Islands Māori☐ Tongan☐ Niuean☐ Chinese☐ Indian

Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan) please state

NHI number (if known)Doctor's name

Medical centre addressPhone number

Medical history

Have they had a serious reaction to any immunisation before?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please describe

Do they have any serious medical conditions? Eg: bleeding disorder, epilepsy, HIV positive, cancer.☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please describe

Do they have any severe allergies to food or medicine?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please describe

Do they take any regular medicine?☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please describe

Is there anything else the vaccinator needs to know about your child? Eg: fainting/anxiety history, autism.☐ Yes☐ No

If yes, please describe

Parent/ legal guardian details

I am (tick one)☐ Mother☐ Father☐ Legal Guardian

Phone number

Your full nameEmail

Day time emergency contact nameDay time emergency contact phone

☐ I consent for my child to have the MMR immunisations at school

SignatureDate signedDAYMONTHYEAR

Fill this out if you **DO NOT** want your child to receive the MMR immunisation.

SECTION B: Your child's details

SchoolRoom name or number

SurnameFirst name

Middle name(s)Other surname(s)

Date of birthDAYMONTHYEARIs your child (tick one)☐ Male☐ Female☐ Gender diverse

Home addressPostcode

Which ethnic group(s) does your child most closely identify with? (You may tick more than one.)

☐ NZ European☐ Māori☐ Samoan☐ Cook Islands Māori☐ Tongan☐ Niuean☐ Chinese☐ Indian

Other (such as Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan) please state

NHI number (if known)Doctor's name

Medical centre addressPhone number

Reasons for declining the immunisation (optional)

☐ I will take my child to the family doctor or another health provider to be immunised

☐ My child has already received both MMR immunisations

☐ Other

Parent/ legal guardian details

I am (tick one)☐ Mother☐ Father☐ Legal Guardian

Phone number

Your full nameEmail

Day time emergency contact nameDay time emergency contact phone

☐ I do not consent for my child to have the MMR immunisations at school

SignatureDate signedDAYMONTHYEAR

Thank you. Please return this consent form to your school.
The vaccinator may contact you if they have any questions about the information you have provided in this form.