



Now is the time to get the measles (MMR) vaccine.

Measles is a very contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. It can cause rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, and red, watery eyes. Some people may get very sick and can die. It is infecting people who are not vaccinated in parts of Pennsylvania.

The measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is the best way to prevent measles and stop the spread of measles. Vaccination protects you, your family, and your community. Catch-up and early doses provide real protection when it matters most.

Where is measles being detected?

Visit <https://www.pa.gov/measles> for a current list of counties where measles has been detected this year.

Who should get vaccinated now?

Most people should get vaccinated now if they have either never had measles disease or never had two doses of measles vaccine. This is especially important if you live, work, or travel to areas with measles infections. Talk with your health care provider or call 1-877-PA-Health.

Catch-up and Early Vaccine Doses in a Measles Outbreak

Babies

Babies 6 to 11 months should get one early dose of MMR vaccine in areas with a current measles outbreak. They should still receive their routine doses at 12–15 months and 4–6 years old.

Children

Normally, children receive two doses of MMR vaccine. One is given after their first birthday (12 to 15 months of age recommended) and a second before starting school at 4-6 years old. In an outbreak, they should receive these doses more quickly.

Children older than 1 year who did not yet start the MMR series should get two doses at least 28 days apart. Children who already received one dose should get their second dose now if it has been at least 28 days since their first dose.

Adults and Teenagers

Adults and teens who never had measles or the measles vaccine should get two doses at least 28 days apart. Adults and teens who already received one dose should get a second dose now if it has been at least 28 days since their first dose.

Is an early dose safe?

Yes, an early MMR dose is safe. It provides moderate protection to babies during the outbreak. Babies who are vaccinated early will still need 2 additional doses to provide life-long protection. You should discuss an early dose with your health care provider.

Who should not get measles vaccine?

Some people should not get the measles vaccine. Babies younger than 6 months old can't be vaccinated. Talk with your health care provider if you are pregnant or have a:

- Severely weakened immune system
- History of severe allergic reaction to MMR or an MMR vaccine component

My child can't be vaccinated, is there something I can do?

If you are vaccinated, you greatly reduce your own risk of getting measles and also from going on to expose friends or family members who are not vaccinated.

Where can I get MMR vaccine?

Vaccine is available in many health care providers' offices, urgent care centers, local pharmacies, [federally funded health centers](#), [local health departments](#) and [State Health Centers](#) (1-877-PA-Health). Call ahead to check eligibility and availability.

Where can I learn more?

Pennsylvania Department of Health: [Measles: What you Need to Know](#), [Measles Fact Sheet for Parents and Guardians](#), [Measles Fact Sheet](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [Measles Vaccination](#), [Measles-Mumps-Rubella \(MMR\) Vaccine: Recommendations Summary](#)