

Measles vaccine

Protect your children, protect yourself, protect your community.

Vaccines have been protecting people and communities against diseases for many years. Boost your vaccine confidence by learning how vaccines can protect First Nations, Inuit and Métis from measles.



What is measles?

Measles is a virus that spreads easily and can lead to serious complications, such as brain swelling and death. Measles can cause high fever, cold-like symptoms and a bad cough, followed by a red, blotchy rash on the face that spreads down the body. Measles is especially dangerous for children under 5 years, pregnant people and those with a compromised immune system.

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your children from getting measles.



Why should I get this vaccine?

When you have all the recommended doses of the measles vaccine, protection is nearly 100%. The vaccine can protect against severe symptoms and complications caused by the virus.



Who should get this vaccine?

In Canada, the measles vaccine is usually given in childhood but is also recommended for those who did not receive all doses or never had a measles infection in the past.

Canada has 2 measles vaccines: measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV).



Where can I get the measles vaccine?

All provinces and territories offer free measles vaccines as part of their routine immunization program. If you think you or your child missed any measles vaccine doses, please contact your local healthcare provider or public health department.



What are the possible vaccine side effects?

Most side effects are minor and resolve on their own. Common side effects include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site. You may experience a mild fever, joint pain and a rash appearing 1 to 3 weeks after the vaccine. Severe reactions are rare.

Talk to your community health nurse or healthcare provider about how to help relieve symptoms after vaccination.



What to do after vaccination?

Wait in the clinic for 15 minutes after receiving your vaccine. Notify someone immediately if you experience any side effects.

Seek medical help if your symptoms get worse (for example, trouble breathing, swelling of face or rash) or last longer than 48 hours.

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For more information:
Canada.ca/vaccines



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