

Measles Vaccine

Am I protected against measles?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers you protected from measles if you have written documentation (records) showing at least **one** of the following:

- You received **two** doses of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a(n) —
 - school-aged child (grades K-12)
 - adult who will be in a setting that poses a high risk for measles transmission, including students at post-high school education institutions, health care personnel, and international travelers.
- You received **one** dose of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a(n) —
 - preschool-aged child
 - adult (born in 1957 or later) who will not be in a high-risk setting for measles transmission.
- Laboratory confirmed that you had measles at some point in your life.
- Laboratory confirmed that you are immune to measles.
- You were born before 1957.

For international travelers, CDC considers you protected from measles if you have written documentation (records) showing at least one of the following:

- You received one dose of measles-containing vaccine, and you are an infant aged 6–11 months
- You received two doses of measles-containing vaccine, and you are a person 12 months or older
- Laboratory confirmed that you had measles at some point in your life
- Laboratory confirmed that you are immune to measles
- You were born before 1957

Do I need a booster shot for measles?

No. CDC considers people who received two doses of measles vaccine as children according to the U.S. vaccination schedule protected for life, and they do not ever need a booster dose. If you're not sure whether you are fully vaccinated, talk with your healthcare provider or local public health unit.

What is evidence of immunity?

You do not need measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine if you meet any of these criteria for evidence of immunity:

- You have written documentation of age appropriate vaccination:
- You have laboratory confirmation of past infection or had blood tests that show you are immune to measles, mumps, and rubella.
- You were born before 1957.

Do people who got the killed measles vaccine in the 1960s need to be revaccinated with the current, live measles vaccine?

Not many people fall into this group; the killed vaccine was given to less than one million people between 1963 and 1968. Also, most people don't know if they got the killed vaccine during this time. If you're

unsure whether you fall into this group, you could ask your healthcare provider to test your blood to determine whether you're immune. Or you can just get a dose of MMR vaccine. There is no harm in getting another dose of MMR vaccine if you may already be immune to measles (or mumps or rubella).

How do I find my immunization record?

The North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) includes immunization records for children and adults who were vaccinated in North Dakota. The NDIIS was started in the mid 1990's, so immunizations administered prior to that may not be available. You can request a copy of your NDIIS record at your healthcare provider's office, your local public health unit or from the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (NDDHHS) at [Immunization Record Request | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#). If your record is not in the NDIIS, you will have to contact your healthcare provider and/or parent to obtain your record. Some adults may be unable to find their immunization records.

Is it safe to have another measles vaccine if you had one as a child but can't find a record of it?

Yes, it is safe to receive additional doses of MMR vaccine if there is no evidence of immunity.

How well does the MMR vaccine work?

MMR vaccine is very effective at protecting people against measles, mumps, and rubella. One dose of MMR vaccine is 93% effective against measles. Two doses of MMR vaccine are about 97% effective against measles.

Who should not get the MMR vaccine?

Some people should not get the MMR vaccine. Tell your health care provider if you:

- Are pregnant or think you might be pregnant. Women should avoid getting pregnant for at least one month after getting MMR vaccine.
- Have any severe, life threatening allergies. A person who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of MMR vaccine, or has a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine, may be advised not to be vaccinated.
- Have a weakened immune system due to disease (such as cancer or HIV/AIDS) or medical treatments (such as radiation, immunotherapy, steroids, or chemotherapy).
- Have a parent, brother, or sister with a history of immune system problems.
- Have ever had a condition that makes them bruise or bleed easily.
- Have recently had a blood transfusion or received other blood products. You may be advised to postpone MMR vaccination for three months or more.
- Have tuberculosis.
- Have gotten any other vaccines in the past four weeks. Live vaccines given too close together might not work as well.
- Are not feeling well. Mild illness, such as a cold, is usually not a reason to postpone vaccination. Someone who is moderately or severely ill should probably wait. Your health care provider can advise you.

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Resources:

Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html>