

MMR Vaccine;

Payment, Eligibility, Supply, Ordering, Resources

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine uptake rates for routine childhood programmes have fallen globally, worsening immunity gaps and leaving more children vulnerable to this potentially fatal disease.

[Coverage for the measles, mumps and rubella \(MMR\) vaccination programme in the UK](#) has also fallen to the lowest level in a decade.

Uptake for the first dose of the MMR vaccine in children aged 2 years in England is 89%, and uptake of 2 MMR doses at age 5 years is 85.5%. This is below the 95% target set by the World Health Organization (WHO) as necessary to achieve and maintain elimination.

In addition, UKHSA North West Health Protection Team has recently identified a very small number of confirmed measles cases in the Greater Manchester area.

UKHSA are working closely with the NHS and other partners to support the recovery of the routine childhood immunisations programme and catch-up children who missed out.

Local GM partners are working together to ensure tailored approaches to improve vaccine uptake in under-vaccinated communities are in place.

A range of approaches are planned and/or in action across GM, intended to increase knowledge, demand and uptake of MMR.

Your continued support and activity is greatly appreciated, in ensuring MMR vaccination and catch-up is arranged when appropriate.

This eligibility toolkit has been produced to inform you during a time of expected increase in demand for MMR vaccination

For any MMR questions not covered in this toolkit, please email england.gmsit@nhs.net

MMR schedule

Children in the UK are given MMR as part of the routine immunisation schedule:

- 1st dose – 1 year of age (on or after child's first birthday)
- 2nd dose – 3 years 4 months (or soon after)

MMR given outside of the routine immunisation schedule:

Doses given before the age of one should be discounted and further doses given at the recommended times in line with the NHS routine immunisation schedule;

- [The complete routine immunisation schedule from February 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

or incomplete immunisation status algorithm;

- [Vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The second dose of MMR should not be given <18m of age except where protection against measles is urgently required

A minimum of 4 weeks should be left between 1st and 2nd dose MMR

Who is eligible for the MMR vaccine?



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Anyone who has not had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine can ask their GP surgery for a vaccination appointment.

MMR vaccine can be given to individuals of any age and should be offered opportunistically and promoted to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated younger adults – particularly those born before 1990.

Opportunities for catching up those who are not fully vaccinated may include;

- new GP registration,
- prison or military service
- migrant, refugee or asylum seeker
- about to start college or university
- going to travel abroad
- planning a pregnancy
- frontline health or social care worker
- born between 1970 and 1979, as may have only been vaccinated against measles
- born between 1980 and 1990, as may not be protected against mumps

Those who have not received MMR should be offered appropriate MMR immunisation.

- [Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444444/green-book-chapter-21-measles.pdf)
- [MMR \(measles, mumps and rubella\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccines-and-medicines/immunisation/childhood-vaccines/childhood-vaccines-a-z/mmr/)

Older people ; MMR eligibility



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The decision on when to vaccinate older adults needs to take into consideration the past vaccination history, the likelihood of an individual remaining susceptible and the future risk of exposure and disease.

[Green Book, chapter 21, p.10.](#)

Individuals born before 1970 are likely to have had all three natural infections and are less likely to be susceptible. MMR vaccine should be offered to such individuals on request or if they are considered to be at high risk of exposure.

Individuals born between 1970 and 1979 may have been vaccinated against measles and many will have been exposed to mumps and rubella during childhood. However, this age group should be offered MMR wherever feasible, particularly if they are considered to be at high risk of exposure.

MMR eligibility ; Health care workers



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- **All health care workers** (including receptionists, laboratory staff, ambulance workers etc.) should be up to date with their routine immunisations.
- This is especially important in the context of MMR, not only for their own protection against catching measles, mumps or rubella, but also the potential for health care workers to transmit measles or rubella to vulnerable patients they come into contact with.
- Generally managed by Occupational Health departments.
- [Green Book: Chapter 12 Immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/42422/green-book-chapter-12-immunisation-of-healthcare-and-laboratory-staff.pdf)

Individuals travelling or going to reside abroad

- Any person travelling to measles epidemic or endemic areas must ensure they are fully immunised.
- Infants from six months of age can receive MMR vaccine early if travelling to measles endemic areas with a high incidence of measles or to an area where there is a current outbreak, who are likely to be mixing with the local population. Any dose given before the age of 1 year should subsequently be discounted and two further doses of MMR should be given at the recommended ages.
- Children who are travelling who have received one dose of MMR at the routine age should have the second dose brought forward to at least one month after the first. If the child is under 15 months of age, then the routine pre-school dose (a third dose) should be given in order to ensure full protection.

Vaccine supply

- MMR vaccine is available free of charge from ImmForm.
- For the latest advice on MMR vaccine supply / ordering please check the most recent [Vaccine Update](#) issue.
- If you require a larger amount of MMR vaccine than usual or have any queries about ImmForm ordering, please call 020718 38580 or email Helpdesk@immform.org.uk.

Access and payment

GP practices should offer vaccination all registered patients who are eligible for MMR and have not received 2^{Integrated Care} doses to complete the MMR schedule

MMR vaccination delivered is eligible for item of service payment, regardless of age.

More detail in the following links;

- [General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- [Letter template \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://england.nhs.uk)

Information on measles infection

www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles

[Measles: symptoms, diagnosis, complications and treatment \(factsheet\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Measles outbreak resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Think measles: patient leaflet for young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Measles outbreak A4 poster for GP surgery reception \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[MMR for all: general leaflet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[A guide to immunisation for babies up to 13 months of age \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

[Pre-school vaccinations: guide to vaccinations from 2 to 5 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Vaccine storage – maintaining the cold chain

- The 'cold chain' is a term used to describe the cold temperature conditions vaccines should be stored at from manufacture to administration. **This is 2°C to 8°C but strive for 5°C**
- Vaccines must be stored in a fridge that is specifically for vaccines
- The fridge should have an integrated reading of the current temperature and an option to view the maximum and minimum temperature of the fridge since last reset
- The fridge thermometer must have a reset function
- An internal thermometer independent of electricity supply should also be used so as to monitor temperature in the event of power failure. If this is a probe- it must dangle freely in the centre of the fridge
- Data loggers are strongly recommended and should be set to read every 10 minutes

Actions to take in the event of a cold chain breach:

- Embargo the fridge not to be used until advice is given
- Quarantine all vaccines and label not to be used until stability advice is received in a cold chain compliant fridge
- Contact the Screening and Immunisation Team for advice – england.gmsit@nhs.net

The Green Book Chapter 3, Storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/223753/Green_Book_Chapter_3_v3_0W.pdf

Legal frameworks for vaccination – Patient Group Directions

- PGDs are governed by the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 and later amendments.
- They allow specified health professionals to supply and/or administer medicine without a prescription or an instruction from a prescriber.
- The majority of clinical care should be provided on an individual basis using prescriptions or patient specific directions.
- Most PGDs are authorised before they are supplied to the practice for use in a commissioned service.
- These include PGDs authorised by the NHS England regional team to support the national immunisation programme.
- PGD is not valid until signed by a senior member of staff to adopt it for use by the provider.

PGDs can be accessed via the Greater Manchester Primary Care website - [Patient Group Directions - Greater Manchester Primary Care \(gmprimarycare.org.uk\)](https://www.gmprimarycare.org.uk/patient-group-directions)

[GP mythbuster 19: Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\)/Patient Specific Directions \(PSDs\) - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk/resources/gp-mythbuster-19-patient-group-directions-patient-specific-directions-psds)

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers



It is important to check newly registered children and adults are up to date with the UK schedule, especially new migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

The [incomplete immunisation status algorithm](#) should be used to catch up any MMR (and other) vaccines that may have been missed.

Asylum seekers and refugees may present to primary care having recently been given an accelerated course of vaccines prior to arriving in the UK. It may be difficult to ascertain which vaccines have been given and unless reliable documented or verbal evidence is available, these patients should be considered unvaccinated and offered any vaccines appropriate to their age, following the incomplete immunisation status algorithm.

Useful resources:

[UK and international immunisation schedules comparison tool - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[WHO Immunization Data portal](#)

[Global Vaccination Schedules | Vaccine Knowledge Project \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

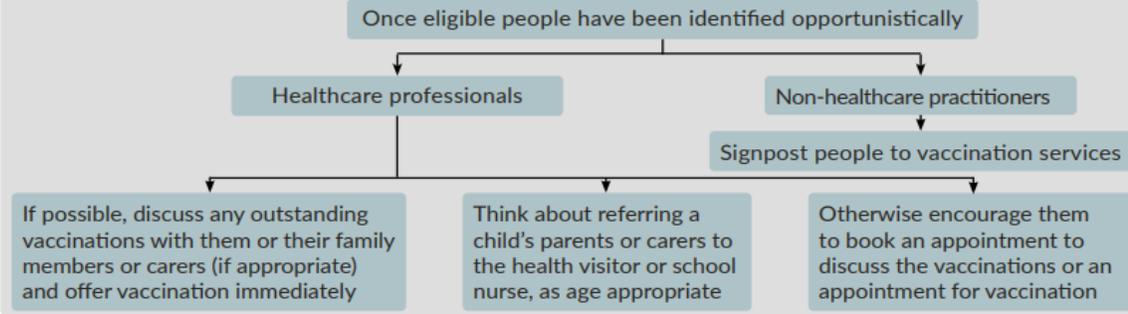
[Immunisation: migrant health guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Immunisation information for migrants - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Identifying people eligible for vaccination and opportunistic vaccination

Identifying people eligible for vaccination and opportunistic vaccination

Use every opportunity to identify eligible people. For example, during contacts in health and social care settings and in other settings such as schools, nurseries and prisons (see recommendation 1.2.9 for more details)



Recording offers and administration of vaccinations

When offering a vaccination, record whether it was accepted or declined or there was no response.

When administering a vaccine, record:

- details of consent to the vaccination (including if someone else has consented on the person's behalf, and that person's relationship to them)
- the dose, batch number, expiry date, vaccine name and product name
- the date, route and site of administration
- any reported adverse reactions
- whether the vaccine was administered under Patient Specific Directions or Patient Group Directions

Update records

- Update clinical and patient-held records (including records held on behalf of children) at the time of the vaccination.
- If the patient-held record is not available, give the person a printed record of the vaccination and ensure that the patient-held record is updated at a subsequent healthcare appointment.
- Ensure that vaccinations are reported promptly (within 5 working days or in line with required standards if shorter) to GP practices and child health information services (CHIS), if relevant.
- Where commissioned locally, CHIS should send details of vaccinations administered outside of the GP practice to GP practices within 2 weeks or as specified in the CHIS contract if shorter.

How to identify people eligible for vaccination

- Offer people (or their family members and carers, if appropriate) access to online systems or apps to allow them to view and check their NHS vaccination records (or those of their child or the person they care for).
- Use the NHS summary care record, or any other available vaccination records (including records held by the person), to opportunistically identify people who are eligible for vaccination.
- Providers should routinely use prompts and reminders from electronic medical records to opportunistically identify people who are eligible and due or overdue for vaccination.
- Unless a person has a documented (or reliable verbal) vaccine history, assume that they are not immunised, and plan a full course of immunisations (see [UK Health Security Agency's guidance on vaccination of individuals with uncertain or incomplete immunisation status](#)).

[NICE resources :](#)

[Identifying people eligible for vaccination and opportunistic vaccination \(nice.org.uk\)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng218)
[NG218 Evidence review A: identification and recording of vaccination eligibility and status \(nice.org.uk\)](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng218/evidence-review-a-identification-and-recording-of-vaccination-eligibility-and-status)

Resources available to be ordered as paper copies and in translated versions

-Main MMR leaflet

Explains

- who is eligible for the vaccine
- the importance of having the correct, complete doses of MMR
- you can get MMR vaccination at any age, especially if you are not sure if you have had it
- the importance of calling ahead to the GP or clinic if you suspect you have measles

Printed copies of this leaflet are available free to [order](#) from the Health Publications order line. Translated versions of this leaflet are available free to order in the following languages: [Bengali](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#), [Somali](#), [Ukrainian](#) and [Yoruba](#)

-Measles: information for schools and healthcare Centres.

Answers to some common questions about measles and the MMR vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measles-dont-let-your-child-catch-it-flyer-for-schools>

Leaflet to order and download versions in Arabic, Afrikaans, Bengali, Chinese, Cantonese, English, French, Hindi, Hebrew, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romani, Romanian, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu, Ukrainian & Yiddish.

-Think measles poster for young people

Poster reminds young people who suspect they might have measles to:

- avoid being with immunocompromised people and pregnant women
- calling their GP, walk-in centre or accident and emergency centre to get advice before attending

Paper copies of this poster are available free to [order](#) from the Health Publications order line

-Think measles leaflet for young people

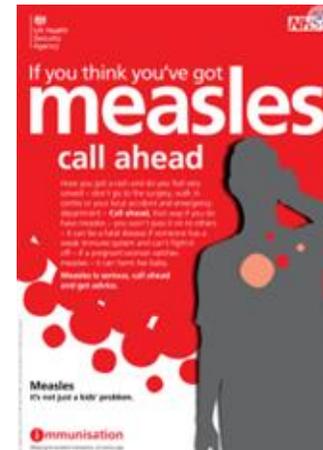
This leaflet explains:

- signs and symptoms of measles, mumps and rubella
- the importance of calling ahead to the GP or clinic if you suspect you have measles
- the importance of having the correct, complete doses of MMR
- you can get MMR vaccination at any age, especially if you are not sure if you have had it

Paper copies of this leaflet are available free to [order](#) from the Health Publications order line.



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Any questions, please email
england.gmsit@nhs.net
Thank You