

5/20/2019

** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

MMR Vaccine For Infants Below the Age of 12 Months Due to the Measles Outbreak Is Not Recommended

From January 1 to May 10, 2019, 839 individual cases of measles have been confirmed in 23 states. This is the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1994 and since measles was declared eliminated in 2000. Eleven outbreaks (defined as 3 or more linked cases) including Washington State, have been reported.

Action Requested:

- Ensure that **all** patients are up to date on measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, including before international travel.
- **DO NOT** administer MMR vaccine to children below the age of 12 months, earlier than the recommended schedule, unless:
 - the dose is administered as prophylaxis in the three days following exposure to a measles case
 - the dose is related to international travel

Background:

There are risks associated with receiving MMR vaccine under the age of 12 months. A review of Washington Immunization Information System (WA IIS) indicates a higher than usual number of children below the age of 12 months received the MMR vaccine in January and February of 2019. Most of the doses were not given as prophylaxis in the three days following an exposure to a measles case, and only a few are likely related to international travel. This is concerning as administration of MMR below the age of 12 months has been associated with blunting of the immune response to subsequent doses administered according to the routine recommendations of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice (ACIP).

Although there is urgency to protect the public, there is currently no Washington State Public Health recommendation to immunize infants below the age of 12 months, earlier than the recommended schedule. The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice (ACIP) recommendations include vaccinations for children in this age group when related to international travel and for prophylaxis within three days of exposure to measles.

CDC vaccine best practices: Before administering a vaccine dose, providers should verify that each dose is being administered after the minimum age and in accordance with minimum intervals. Doses administered too close together or at too young an age can lead to a suboptimal immune response. Doses of any vaccine administered ≥ 5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age appropriate.

The ACIP comprises medical and public health experts who develop recommendations for use of vaccines in the civilian population of the United States. Their recommendations stand as public health guidance for safe use of vaccines and related biological products using evidence-based science to determine the most effective immunization schedule. The current ACIP recommendations for use of **measles, mumps, and rubella** vaccine are as follows:

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION SECTION
 THURSTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
 412 LILLY RD NE
 OLYMPIA, WA, 98506-5132
 DISEASE REPORTING: (360)786-5470 INFORMATION: (360) 867-2533
 Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Health Officer



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MMR vaccination (minimum age: 12 months for routine vaccination; minimum interval between doses: 28 days)

Routine Vaccination

- 2-dose series at 12–15 months and 4–6 years
- Dose 2 may be administered as early as 4 weeks after dose 1.

Catch-up Vaccination

- Unvaccinated children and adolescents: 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

Special Situations

International Travel

- **Infants age 6–11 months:** 1 dose before departure; revaccinate with dose 2 at 12–15 months (12 months for children in high-risk areas) and dose 3 as early as 4 weeks later.
- **Unvaccinated children age 12 months and older:** 2-dose series at least 4 weeks apart before departure
- **What should be done if someone is exposed to measles?** Notification of the exposure should be communicated to a doctor. If the person has not been vaccinated, measles vaccine may prevent disease if given within 72 hours of exposure. Immune globulin (a blood product containing antibodies to the measles virus) may prevent or lessen the severity of measles if given within six days of exposure. Doses of any vaccine administered ≥5 days earlier than the minimum interval or age should not be counted as valid doses and should be repeated as age appropriate.

Additional Resources:

Full details of immunization schedule, can be found at
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/0-18yrs-child-combined-schedule.pdf>.

Additional information about the measles can be found at Immunization Action Coalition website:
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4209.pdf>.

Full details on the CDC immunizations best practices can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/downloads/general-recs.pdf>.

WA ST Department of Health
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Measles/Measles2019>

Thank you for helping to protect the health of Thurston County

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY

Voice mail for reporting Non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions	360-867-2500 ask staff to locate Communicable Disease staff
After hours immediately and 24 hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 911 and ask staff to locate the Health Officer. (If calling from outside of Thurston County, call 360-704-2740 and ask staff to locate the Health Officer.)
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344 – Washington State Department of Health