

Measles vaccine

Measles virus causes rash, cough, runny nose, eye irritation, and fever. Children with this disease are often quite ill. It can lead to ear infection, pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Outbreaks of this serious disease continue to occur in among unimmunized persons in the U.S.

This vaccine is usually given as part of the measles-mumps-rubella combined vaccine (MMR), but an individual vaccine is available. A combination of MMR and chickenpox vaccine (MMR-V) is expected to become available in the near future.

This vaccine is less likely to be effective if given before the first birthday. It is typically given at 12 to 15 months of age, and a second dose is given by age 6 years.