

Rubella vaccine

Rubella virus causes rash, mild fever, and arthritis. If a woman gets rubella while she is pregnant, she could have a miscarriage or her baby could be born with serious birth defects. Although children usually experience mild symptoms, immunizing them against this disease protects all the mothers who come in contact with them.

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.