# MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA (MMR)
## Vaccine Fact Sheet

## (MMR®II or PRIORIX® Vaccine)

### WHAT IS MEASLES AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Measles is a very contagious virus that spreads easily through tiny droplets in the air or contaminated objects and surfaces. Symptoms of measles include fever, cough, runny nose, red, watery eyes, sensitivity to light, small blue-white spots in the mouth, red rash that starts on the head and spreads down the body to the arms and legs. In severe cases, measles can result in hearing loss, lung infection, swelling of the brain, brain damage or death.

### WHAT IS MUMPS AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Mumps causes swelling in the salivary glands around the jaws and cheeks, fever, headache, and/or pain when chewing and swallowing. Complications from mumps can include inflammation of the testicles or ovaries; pancreatitis, hearing loss and swelling of the brain. Infection in the first trimester of pregnancy can result in miscarriage. Mumps can be spread from contact with respiratory droplets.

### WHAT IS RUBELLA AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Rubella is generally a mild disease in children and may cause mild fever, red eyes, red rash and swollen glands. Rubella in a pregnant woman can cause congenital rubella syndrome in developing babies which can result in miscarriage, stillbirth and/or fetal malformation. It is transmitted by respiratory droplets.

### HOW CAN MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA BE PREVENTED?

- **Vaccination is the best protection against disease**. The MMR vaccine is safe and effective
- The province of Ontario covers the cost of this vaccine for children four to 12 years of age

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE?

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Very mild symptoms of the disease, but this is rare. These mild symptoms are not dangerous and can demonstrate that the vaccine is working effectively to build immunity
- Severe side effects are rare

PUBLIC HEALTH

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## WHO SHOULD AVOID THIS VACCINE?

Anyone who:

- Had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to MMR vaccine in the past
- Has an allergy to any component of the vaccine including neomycin or porcine gelatin*
- Is pregnant or think they may be pregnant
- Is immunocompromised due to illness or medication
- Received a live vaccine in the past six weeks or a blood product in the past three months

## WHO SHOULD CONSULT THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEFORE VACCINATION?

Individuals with complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines should consult their health care provider before receiving the MMR vaccine.

* *This vaccine is approved for use in members of religious groups who oppose the ingestion of pig products. Reference:* www.vaccinesafety.edu/religion-and-vaccines