

Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella Vaccine Fact Sheet

(ProQuad® or Priorix-Tetra® Vaccine)

WHAT IS MEASLES DISEASE AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Measles causes a full body rash, high fever, cough, runny nose, watery eyes and/or middle ear infections. In severe cases, can result in hearing loss, lung infection, swelling of the brain, brain damage or death. Measles is spread very easily by respiratory droplets through talking, coughing, or sneezing.

WHAT IS MUMPS DISEASE AND HOW IS 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 DISEASE AND HOW IS 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.

WHAT IS VARICELLA DISEASE AND HOW IS IT SPREAD?

Commonly known as chicken pox, varicella is a highly contagious disease common in children but can also infect teens and adults. It begins with fever, followed by an itchy red rash that progresses to fluid-filled blisters. As the disease progresses, blisters break open, scab over and heal. It can cause birth defects if a pregnant woman is infected. It spreads from person to person through the air by coughing and sneezing, or through direct contact with fluid from a blister from one to two days before the rash appears until after all the blisters have scabbed over. It is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, which can reactivate later in life as shingles

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1-877-464-9675

TTY: Dial 711

york.ca/immunizations



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

- Vaccination is the best protection against disease. The MMRV vaccine is safe and effective
- The province of Ontario covers the cost of this vaccine for children aged four to 12 years of age
- MMRV is often given at four to six years of age in place of separate MMR and varicella vaccines

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE?

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
- Fever, rash, irritability and enlarged lymph nodes
- 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

WHO SHOULD AVOID THIS VACCINE?

Anyone who:

- Had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to MMR or MMRV 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?

People 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