



MMRV Vaccine

Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella

What is the MMRV vaccine?

The MMRV vaccine protects against four serious diseases: measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox. It is part of the routine vaccination schedule for Yukon children. The vaccine works by stimulating the body's immune system to produce antibodies against these diseases.

Why is the MMRV vaccine important?

- **Measles** spreads easily and can cause lung infections, brain swelling, and, in rare cases, death.
- **Mumps** can cause hearing loss, brain swelling, and painful swelling in the testicles or ovaries.
- **Rubella** is dangerous during pregnancy and can cause birth defects or miscarriage.
- **Chickenpox** can lead to pneumonia, brain swelling, skin infections, and can cause shingles later in life.

Who should get the MMRV vaccine?

- Children aged 4 to 6 years who are completing their second dose of MMR and Varicella vaccines.
- MMR and Varicella vaccines are offered at 12 months of age and the MMRV combined vaccine is offered to children before kindergarten.

Who should not get the MMRV vaccine?

- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose or to any part of the vaccine.
- People who are pregnant.
- People with very weak immune systems (such as those with HIV or on cancer treatment) should talk to a health care provider first.

What are the side effects?

MMRV vaccines are safe, but like all vaccines, reactions may occur.

Some common reactions include:

- redness;
- tenderness and swelling at the injection site;
- fever; and
- rash.

Mild reactions can be relieved by applying a cold/damp compress to the site, administering a pain-relieving medication such as acetaminophen if needed.

Rare but serious reactions such as anaphylaxis can occur after immunizations. Talk to your health care provider if your symptoms are severe or last longer than expected.