

Measles update for primary & community care providers

MMR vaccine eligibility

Funding MMR vaccination

When can people not eligible for funded healthcare receive funded MMR vaccination?

People who are not typically eligible for funded healthcare in NZ (non-residents and non-citizens) may be eligible for funded MMR immunisation depending on their situation.

All Recognised Seasonal Employees (RSE)

workers can now access funded MMR vaccination as part of this outbreak response. If you have any questions, please contact the Pacific Public Health Team:

pacificpublichealth@tewhatauora.govt.nz

MMR vaccination for the below groups is funded when a Medical Officer of Health or Health New Zealand has recommended MMR vaccination **as part of a measles public health response**.

This includes:

- People who visited locations of interest or have been identified as being part of a 'ring' and do not have evidence of immunity.
- Other people in priority groups, as determined by the district or regional Medical Officer of Health.

How do I claim for this group?

Claiming information for people not typically eligible for funded healthcare is as follows.

General Practices can claim standard price-per-dose through their PHO as per Service Specification **MMR Vaccination for Ineligible People** (effective immediately, contact your PHO for more information).

Pharmacy providers should claim a funded immunisation administration fee through your PhMS, using A4 code for both MMR vaccine and immunisation administration fee entries.

Who is not eligible for funded MMR vaccination?

Non-residents and non-citizens who are not advised by their Medical Officer of Health or Health NZ to get the MMR vaccine and would like vaccination must pay for a **private market MMR vaccine**. National MMR vaccine supply (funded MMR) should **not** be used for this group.

Ordering, storing and using the private market MMR vaccine

Private market vaccine should be ordered directly from Healthcare Logistics: www.hcl.co.nz

Private market stock must be kept separately from publicly funded vaccine within the vaccine fridge.

When the vaccine is administered, these vaccination events must be entered into AIR:

- For AIR users select the indication code "privately funded, primary course".
- For PMS users, ensure claims for these doses are **not** submitted to Health NZ.

Prioritising MMR vaccination

Please consider whether MMR vaccination is clinically indicated based on evidence of measles vaccination, previous PCR confirmed measles, previous serology, or immunity based on age.

Infants and children are the highest priority for MMR immunisation.

The highest priority is to achieve MMR dose 1 and 2 in children aged 12 months and 15 months, including catch-up for children under 5 years old, followed by older children.

Should babies under 12 months old receive an additional dose?

Based on our assessment of the current risk of measles to the general public and our understanding of the evidence of efficacy of an additional for babies under 12 months old (MMR-O), we are not recommending all babies under 12 months of age receive MMR-O, unless they are a close contact of a case or are travelling internationally.

MMR-O must be administered under prescription and the [IMAC MMR dose zero screening tool](#) should be followed.

What adults require catch-up MMR vaccination?

Younger than 56 years (born after Jan 1969)

- People aged younger than 56 (born after Jan 1969) **will need MMR immunisation** if they do not have a clear record of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine given after age 12 months, or evidence of measles infection.

Some people aged 56 to 70 years (born before Jan 1969)

- **People born in NZ**, are **very unlikely** to need a vaccine, but it can be considered, if necessary, in some circumstances, e.g., travelling to high-risk countries.
- **People born overseas** who did not live in NZ prior to 1969 **may require** MMR vaccination, depending on their country of birth. Further information on this can be found here:

[Measles – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

Please vaccinate if in doubt.

Who does not require MMR vaccination?

Older than 70 years (born before 1955)

People older than 70 years (born before 1955) do not need the MMR vaccine. Encourage this group to support their whānau to ensure they are up to date with all immunisations including measles.

Note

It is important to remember there are contraindications to live vaccines, including Priorix (MMR). Please discuss patients' medical conditions and any medications they are taking before vaccination.

For all age groups, MMR re-vaccination may be required for consumers following immunosuppressant treatment. Vaccinators should refer to the consumer's specialist or IMAC for clinical advice.

Health care providers can reach out to IMAC for advice.