**Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) combining Chicken Pox vaccine (MMRV)**

Immunisation is the best protection against measles, mumps, rubella and chicken pox.

The [Immunise Australia Program](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/national-immunisation-program#:~:text=The%20National%20Immunisation%20Program%20%28NIP%29%20was%20set%20up,diseases%20that%20are%20preventable%20by%20vaccination%20in%20Australia.) provides immunisations against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chicken pox). Immunisation against these four diseases can be given as the MMRV combination vaccine, or the MMR combination vaccine and a single vaccine for chicken pox, depending on the child’s/person’s age.

Vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella requires two doses of vaccine. Vaccination against chicken pox requires one dose (when given under 14 years) to help protect against serious complications associated with chicken pox and to protect from developing shingles later in life.

In Victoria, immunisation against these diseases is free of charge for:

* Children at 12 months – the first immunisation is given as the MMR combination vaccine
* Children at 18 months of age – the second immunisation is given as the MMRV combination vaccine
* Young people up to and including 19 years of age who have not been fully immunised – young people can receive free National Immunisation Program catch-up vaccines
* Women planning pregnancy or after the birth of their child – two doses of MMR are available for women who have low immunity or no immunity to rubella
* Refugees and humanitarian entrants over 20 years of age – catch-up immunisations with MMR are available for people who have not been fully immunised
* People born during or since 1966, without evidence of two documented doses of valid MMR vaccine or without a blood test showing evidence of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella, are eligible for one or two doses of MMR vaccine. (If two MMR doses are required they should be given a minimum of 28 days apart.) If you have not received the vaccine, ask your doctor or immunisation provider about catch-up doses.

Pregnancy and Measles Chicken Pox immunisation

You should not be given the MMR or chicken pox vaccine if you are already pregnant. Pregnancy should also be avoided for 28 days after the vaccination.