

Measles Frequently Asked Questions.

Does a person need to be vaccinated against measles if they have had measles in the past?

If a person has a measles blood test or documented diagnosis that proves they have immunity, then they do not need to receive measles vaccines to be immune against measles.

Why do people who were born in Australia before 1966 not require measles vaccination?

People who were born in Australia before 1966 are likely to have had measles infection, which provides lifelong immunity and do not require vaccination.

However, people who were born outside of Australia before 1966 may not have had the same exposure to measles in their childhood.

Measles serology – a blood test that checks for measles antibodies – may be considered for individuals who want to confirm if they are protected against measles, such as travellers or people born outside of Australia.

Is it possible to get measles even if you have had a measles vaccine?

In people who are recommended to receive measles vaccine, it is very rare for a person to develop measles if they have received 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine. In the small number of breakthrough infections that do occur, there is [evidence](#) to suggest measles disease is much milder compared to those who were not vaccinated.

How should people protect themselves from measles if they are travelling overseas or returning to Australia from overseas?

People travelling overseas from Australia should ensure they have received 2 documented doses of a measles-containing vaccine. They should consult with their healthcare provider at least 6 weeks before departure to determine if additional measles vaccination is recommended.

After a person has returned to Australia from overseas, it is important to be alert to the symptoms of measles. If a person has any concerns that they may be unwell with measles, they should contact a healthcare provider by telephone rather than in person, because of the risk of passing on the infection.

Who is eligible to receive a free measles-containing vaccines?

A 2-dose course of a measles-containing vaccine is available free of charge under the National Immunisation Program for:

- children aged 12 months and over
- all people (including refugees and humanitarian entrants) aged less than 20 years who did not receive the MMR/MMRV vaccines in childhood
- refugees and humanitarian entrants aged 20 years and over.

Additionally, all states and territories fund a dose of MMR vaccine for:

- children aged 6 months to less than 12 months* who are travelling overseas
- adults born during or after 1966.

*** Note:** *If an infant receives a dose of MMR vaccine between 6 and 11 months of age, they still need to receive the 2 recommended vaccine doses at 12 and 18 months of age.*

Infant travellers who receive an early dose of MMR vaccine from 11 months of age but before 12 months may not need a repeat dose.

For additional Frequently Asked Questions about the Measles vaccines you can go to [the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance Australia](#).