

# Measles immunization

## Decision tree for health care providers



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

This document aims to support health care providers with interpretation of the immunization manual for measles immunization. It does not replace the BCCDC Immunization Manual (DST) or case and contact follow-up. Make sure to also refer to the BCCDC DST for Measles and follow direction from your local health authority during an outbreak.

## See the decision tree on Page 2

### Additional notes

- **Travel:** Includes locations experiencing measles outbreaks, places outside of Canada where measles is a concern, or living in an area experiencing an outbreak as determined by the Regional MHO.
- **MMRV:** There are additional considerations and time intervals for the Measles-Mumps-Rubella-Varicella (MMRV) combined vaccine. MMRV is not used as a first dose in those less than 4yrs in BC. In some outbreak situations, MMRV is now allowable as a second dose for children less than 4 years of age - See [MMRV DST page](#) for clinical decision making.
- If more doses are required, try to book the next visit before the client leaves.

### Who is considered immune?

If they meet any of the following:

- **Born before Jan 1, 1970** (Jan 1, 1957 for health care workers)
  - This group is assumed to have acquired immunity, but if they self-identify as unvaccinated or never had measles -> offer 1 dose of MMR
- **Born on/after Jan 1, 1970** (or 1957 for health care workers) **AND:**
  - Have lab evidence of immunity OR
  - Have had 2 document doses valid doses of live measles vaccine over 12 months of age (at least 4 weeks apart)

Refer to the [special considerations](#) section of the MMR biological products page for full information on screening clients for susceptibility to measles, mumps, and rubella.



## To advise clients

Ways to protect yourself during a measles outbreak (including when vaccine isn't an option):

- **Avoid crowds**
- Being around vaccinated people lowers your risk
- **Clean hands and surfaces**
- **Support your immune system** with good nutrition
- **Know the signs** – Watch for fever (38.3°C+), cough, runny nose, red eyes, and rash

## Resources for you

- [BCCDC.ca/measles](https://www.bccdc.ca/measles) for BC case count and exposure locations
- [BC Immunization Manual \(DST\)](#) for autonomous immunizers (QR code on page 2)

## Resources for clients

Printable handouts at [FNHA.ca/measles](https://fnha.ca/measles) on:

- Ways to reduce risk from measles
- Measles: What you need to know

# Measles vaccine decision tree



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Refer to the [BCCDC Immunization Manual \(DST\)](#) for detailed, up-to-date guidance, including considerations for special populations.

