

Adult Measles Immunisation Program

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EMPHN Practice Manager Education Day, 23 April 2026

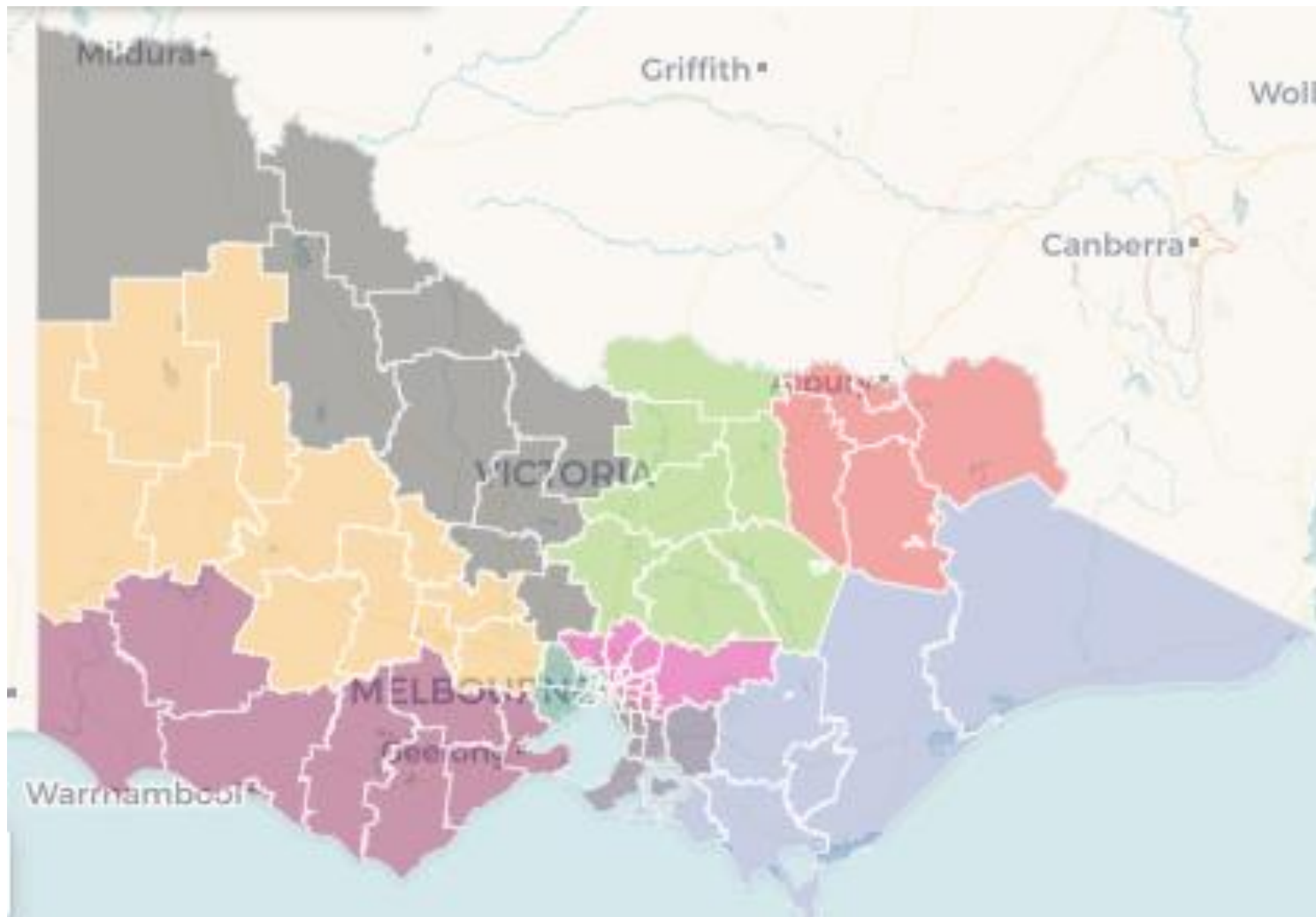
Acknowledgement of Country

NEPHU acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, live and play on. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise and honour the enduring connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to this land, water and Community.



Artwork: The Gathering
Artist: Rubii Red

Local public health units in Victoria



Victorian LPHU's

- LODDON MALLEE
- GRAMPIANS WIMMERA SOUTHERN MAL...
- BARWON SOUTH WEST
- WPHU
- GOULBURN VALLEY
- OVENS MURRAY
- NEPHU
- SEPHU
- GIPPSLAND



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PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Local public health units in Victoria



Banyule City Council

City of Boroondara

City of Darebin

Hume City Council

Knox City Council

Manningham Council

Maroondah City Council

Nillumbik Shire Council

Whitehorse City Council

City of Whittlesea

Yarra City Council

Yarra Ranges Council

- LPHU boundaries do not directly overlap with PHNs
- Measles immunisation content is general and still applicable to all Victorian primary care practices

- Some initiatives being promoted in other LPHU catchments will not apply in the NEPHU catchment

Response to measles outbreak: Adult measles immunisation program

Why is measles important?

What is measles?

Viral respiratory disease

Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Coryza
- Conjunctivitis
- Koplik spots
- Rash: 3-5 days after onset, fever present, starts on head and descends, maculopapular non-itchy

Presentation is atypical if some prior immunity (“attenuated measles”)

There is no antiviral treatment for measles



Complications

About 1 in 4 will be hospitalised

<5yo and >20yo are at risk

Common: Ear infection, diarrhoea

Severe: pneumonia, encephalitis

Long term: subacute sclerosing panencephalitis

Death: 1-2 per 1,000

How is measles spread?

Mode of transmission – Airborne or on surfaces

One of the most contagious diseases (R_0 12-18)

Transmission can occur from just being in the same room as case as well as after case has left

Infectious period – 24 hours before symptom onset (or 4 days before rash onset if uncertain symptom onset) to 4 days after rash appeared

Incubation period – 7-18 days



2025 Victorian outbreak

Victorian outbreak - early 2025

- Multiple incursions, particularly from Vietnam and Thailand
- Undetected local transmission
- Greater spread than previously, likely due to lower herd immunity

News > Victoria

BREAKING

Measles alert for Chadstone Shopping Centre, metro trains

Chadstone Shopping Centre has become a measles exposure site after a confirmed case worked at a popular make-up store, and visited other shops, while infectious. [SEE THE FULL LIST.](#)

Sarah Booth [Follow](#)

@sarahbooth_14 2 min read May 23, 2025 - 3:44PM

Herald Sun

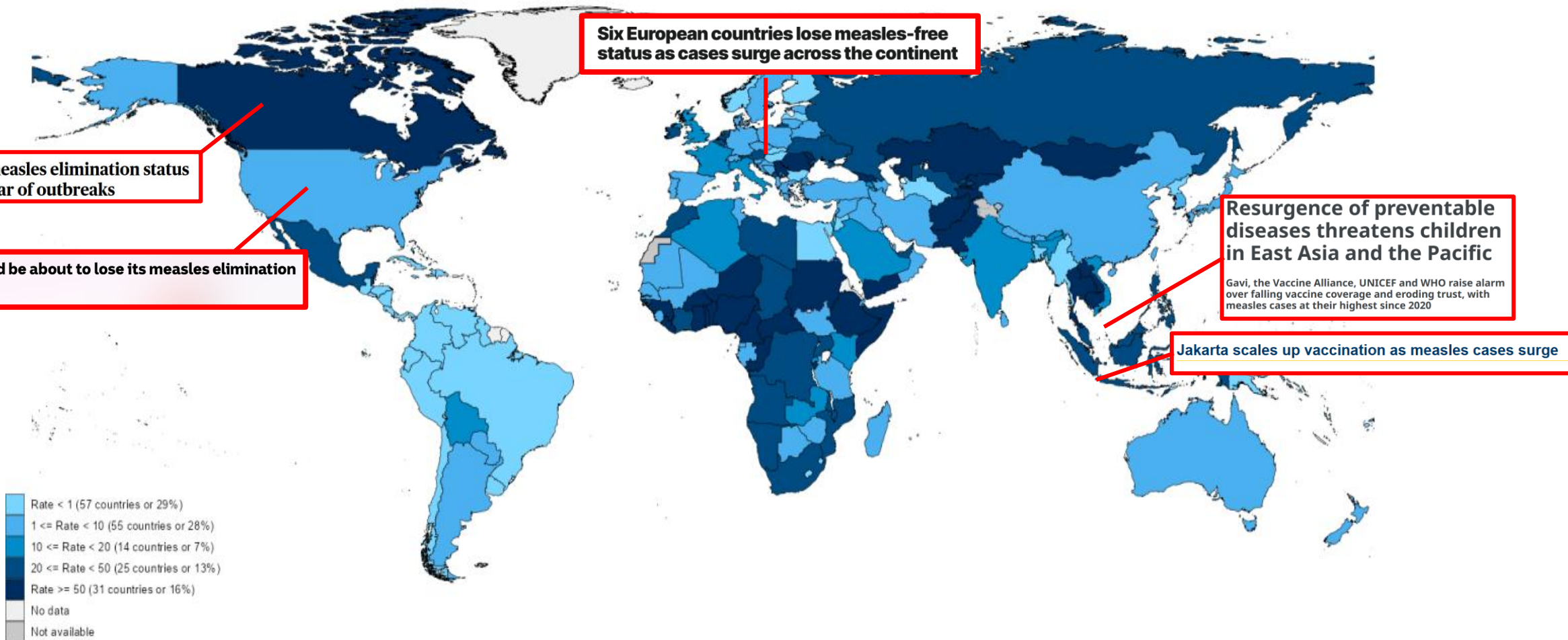


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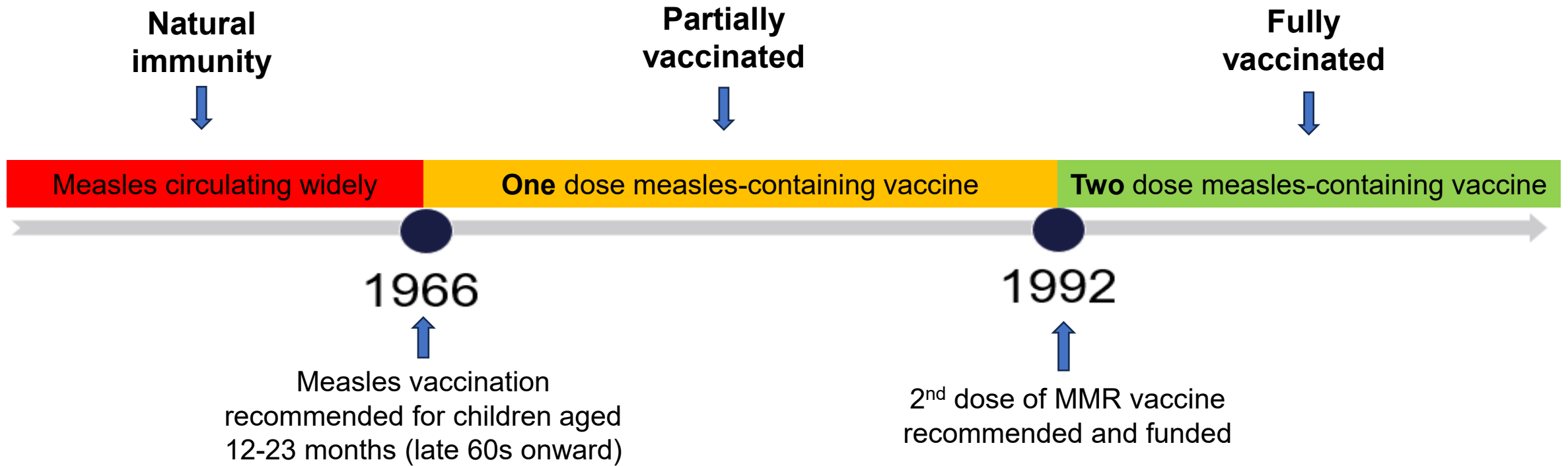
Why is measles a problem right now?

Measles is increasing globally

Measles Incidence Rate per Million (Last 12 months)



Vaccine schedule timeline – Australia



Measles-containing vaccines

- National vaccination programs vary widely between countries
- Many adults may have only one dose of measles-containing vaccine, or are unsure of their vaccination status

Country	Dose 1 introduced	Dose 2 introduced
China	1978	1986
New Zealand	1969	1992
Australia	1968	1992
Italy	1979	~1993
England	1968	1996
Sri Lanka	1984	2001
Iraq	~1985	~2001
Malaysia	1982	2004
Vietnam	1981	2006
India	1985	2010



820,000

The estimated number of adults potentially eligible for catch-up MMR vaccination within the NEPHU catchment

What could happen?

Best case

- Multiple incursions with low grade transmission within the community
- GP clinic and health service exposures

Worst case

- Imported case(s) with amplification in an unvaccinated group or large exposures leading to widespread transmission
- Many infections during a protracted outbreak including severe illness and death
- Many GP clinic and health service exposures with significant impacts on service delivery
- Australia loses WHO measles elimination status

Current measles situation

UPDATE

Sharp increase in measles cases over recent months: 23 confirmed cases in Victoria in 2026 (to 15 April)

- Linked to overseas travel
- Including local transmission from unknown source

Measles 'likely' circulating in Sydney as outbreak grows

 By Patrick Brischetto | 3:45pm Feb 28, 2026


Why the 'canary in the coalmine' of infectious diseases is on the rise in Australia

More than a decade after it was wiped out, one of the world's most contagious diseases is on the rise again in Australia.



Natalie Brown [Follow](#)

[@natalieisbrown](#) 4 min read February 28, 2026 - 3:52PM [news.com.au](#)

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Increasing measles vaccination coverage

Victorian Enhanced Measles Response Program

Goal: Increase MMR coverage of adults

Born during or after 1966 without two doses of measles vaccine or unsure of vaccination status

- **State-funded program by Victorian Department of Health**
- **Programs to be developed and delivered via Local Public Health Units**
 - Will be differences but same goal to increase population immunity
- **Free MMR vaccine for eligible adults 20-59 years:**
 - Born during or after 1966 without two documented doses of measles containing vaccine
 - Unsure of vaccination status
- **Out of scope:** < 20yo who are eligible for catchup MMR under NIP

NEPHU Measles Immunisation Program

Partnering to promote the uptake of free MMR vaccine in **primary care settings and local councils** for under-immunised adult cohorts

- ✓ **Utilising existing pathways**
- ✓ **Opportunistic – Building immunity checks and measles vaccination into routine primary care touchpoints**
- ✓ **Equitable and sustainable**
- ✓ **Maximising long term impacts**

Priority Groups

- **Born between 1966 and 1992**
(i.e. aged 33-59 years)
Partially immunised as per schedule
- **Pre-travel overseas**
- **Born overseas with undocumented vaccination history**
- **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People**

Targeted waves

Born 1966-1992
Nov 2025 onwards

Pre-travel
Dec 2025

Health checks
Feb-Apr 2026

Flu vaccination
Mar-Jun 2026

Measles exposure
Timing as needed

Each phase has associated promotional materials, communications and messaging

Targeted engagement with priority groups. Translated resources are available

Promotional materials are available

Were you born between 1966 and 1992?

Even if you had your childhood vaccines, you might not be fully protected against measles.

Measles is circulating in our community. You need two doses of the measles vaccine to be fully protected. If you were born before 1992, you might have had only one dose as the second dose wasn't added to Australia's vaccine schedule until 1992. People born before 1966 are usually considered immune.

Lost your childhood vaccine record? **It's safe to get another dose if you're unsure about your history.**

Check your vaccination status and book your free measles vaccine with your GP today!



Were you born between 1966 and 1992?

A free measles vaccine may be available.

If you'd like, you can check your immunisation history or talk with a health worker about what you need.

Strong community starts with strong health



Getting a flu shot?

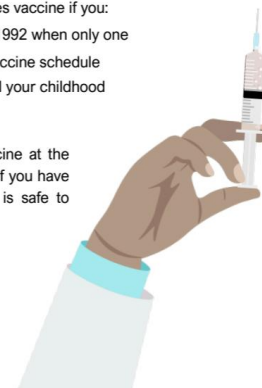
Ask your healthcare provider about a **measles** vaccine at the same time.

- You may need a catch up measles vaccine if you:
- were born between 1966 to 1992 when only one dose was on the childhood vaccine schedule
 - missed or did not complete all your childhood vaccinations

It is safe to get a measles vaccine at the same time as your flu shot, and if you have lost your vaccination record, it is safe to get an additional dose.



Learn more about measles



Here for your child?

Don't forget about **your** health too

If you were born before 1992, you might have had only one dose as the second dose wasn't added to Australia's vaccine schedule until 1992. People born before 1966 are usually considered immune.

Measles is circulating in our community. You need **two doses** of the measles vaccine to be fully protected.

If you are unsure of your vaccination history, it is safe to request an additional measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccination.

Ask to confirm availability and if there are any out of pocket administration costs.

The MMR vaccine is a live vaccine and **cannot** be given during pregnancy

Book in a **measles** vaccine at your GP now!



Free resources can be printed and mailed to practices located in NEPHU catchment

Translated resources are now available.

Order at: nephu.org.au/news-and-events/new-measles-immunisation-program/

Translated materials

Are you an adult born after 1966?

Even if you had your childhood vaccines, **you might not be fully protected against measles.**

Measles is circulating in our community. You need two doses of the measles vaccine to be fully protected. If you are an adult born after 1966, you might have had only one dose. Previous childhood vaccine schedules only included one measles vaccine. People born before 1966 are usually considered immune.

Lost your childhood vaccine record? **It's safe to get another dose if you're unsure about your history.**



Learn more

Check your vaccination status and book your **free measles vaccine** with your healthcare provider today!

Call ahead to confirm availability and if there are any out of pocket administration costs.



Getting a flu shot?

Ask your healthcare provider about a **measles** vaccine at the same time.

You need **two doses** of measles vaccine to be fully protected against measles.

You may need a catch up measles vaccine if you:

- are an adult who was born after 1966 – as only one measles vaccine may have been on the childhood vaccination schedule at that time
- missed or did not complete all your childhood vaccinations

It is safe to get a measles vaccine at the same time as your flu shot, and if you have lost your vaccination record, it is safe to get an additional dose.



Learn more about measles



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- Burmese
- Simplified Chinese (Mandarin)
- Traditional Chinese (Cantonese)
- Dari
- Greek
- Kurdish
- Pashto
- Persian
- Punjabi
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

Key messages

Measles is increasing globally

Victoria's Enhanced Measles Response program aims to increase the measles vaccination coverage in adults

Primary care practices are encouraged to offer free state-funded catchup measles vaccine to all adults born on or after 1966 who are missing two documented doses of measles-containing vaccine or are unsure of vaccination status

➤ Many adults born between 1966 and 1992 have only had one dose but are not aware of this

Call to Action

- Start offering catch-up MMR vaccination to eligible adults at opportunistic touchpoints
 - **Co-administration when people present for flu vaccines is a timely and effective touchpoint**
- Add state-funded MMR vaccine to your next fortnightly OneLink order
- Download or order promotional resources here:
<https://nephu.org.au/health-topics/measles-immunisation-resources/>
- Record in AIR: select **Other** under Vaccine Type

Program webpage



Resource order form



Questions?

Preparing your clinic for potential measles exposures

- RACGP measles factsheet and checklist: <https://www.racgp.org.au/running-a-practice/practice-management/managing-emergencies-and-pandemics/measles-fact-sheet-and-checklist>

Preparation

- Procedures in place
- Check staff vaccination status
- Signage
- Staff awareness of risk factors, signs and symptoms
- PPE

Response

- Identify and isolate patient early
- Test and notify - LPHU
- Create a contact list
- Check immunisation status of those exposed
- Offer post-exposure prophylaxis where appropriate
- Provide information

Further information

Questions and feedback can be emailed at any time to
healthprotection.nephu@austin.org.au

Lily's email:

Lily.buch5@austin.org.au

NEPHU website:

<https://nephu.org.au/news-and-events/measles-immunisation-program-launched/>

Stay Updated



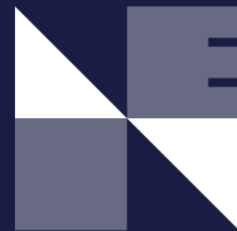
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