

**Vaccinate  
to protect**

Vaccination is the best, safest and most effective tool for protection against measles. In order to prevent measles, strengthen immunity and to eliminate the disease in the community, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends adherence to routine vaccination and implementing immunization campaigns. The National Measles Immunization Campaign will be launched in the United Arab Emirates and Ministry of Health and other health authorities call the community to contribute to the success of the National campaign to ensure protecting the community against measles and to eliminate the disease from the UAE.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



لمجتمع خالٍ من الحصبة  
For a Measles Free Community

Visit the nearest health  
centre/clinic

For free vaccination against measles  
Phase 1 for those 1-18 years  
1<sup>st</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Vaccination is important to  
protect the community



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### **What is measles? And how it will be transmitted?**

Measles is a serious human illness that is highly contagious, it caused by a virus .

Measles may affect children or adults. It is highly contagious through the spread of viral particles that occurs when an infected person coughs or sneezes into the air. After an incubation period of approximately 10 days, measles initially produces symptoms of a bad cold with runny nose, conjunctivitis, cough, and high fever, which followed by a rash. The rash is a prominent red, spotted rash that typically starts in the face and the head and descends through the body. People with measles are contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears.

### **Who are at risk for getting the measles?**

Unvaccinated young children or adults are at highest risk of measles and its complications, including death. Unvaccinated pregnant women are also at risk. Any non-immune person (who has not been vaccinated or was vaccinated but did not develop immunity) can become infected.

### **Is there any treatment for measles and how to prevent Measles?**

No specific antiviral treatment exists for measles virus.

The best way to avoid catching measles is to have the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine during routine measles vaccination and mass immunization campaigns .

### **Why measles vaccination is so important?**

The measles vaccine is often incorporated with rubella and mumps vaccines and it can increase the immunity against measles and prevent from getting measles.

### **Who should receive the vaccine during the campaign?**

All people from one to 34 years old should receive the vaccine as per UAE national immunization campaign plan to ensure full protection and elimination against the disease.

Two phases will implemented:

- Phase one will be in November of 2015 and it targets people from one to 18 years.
- Phase two to be announced later, and it targets people from 19 to 34 years.

### **Who should NOT get measles vaccine?**

- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to antibiotic neomycin, or any other component of MMR or MMRV vaccine, should not get the vaccine.
  - Pregnant women should not get the vaccine until after giving birth. Women should avoid getting pregnant for 4 weeks after vaccination with MMR vaccine.
    - If the person getting the vaccine: Has HIV/AIDS, or another disease that affects the immune system
    - Is treated with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids
  - Some people who are sick at the time with high fever
- Any of these might be a reason to not get the vaccine, or delay vaccination.

### **Why is it important to implement measles campaign?**

- The UAE is committed to implement the World Health Organization initiatives concerning eliminating measles disease through conducting routine vaccination programs and supplementary vaccination campaigns.
- To ensure eliminating the disease in the country, it is important to vaccinate people who are at risk.
- It is an opportunity to reach unvaccinated children or adults so as to increase their immunity against measles

### **If my child took the vaccine during the campaign, does that mean they should not receive the vaccine during their routine vaccination program?**

No, the dose your child will get during the campaign are supplementary doses.

If the routine vaccination appointment was scheduled in the same period for the campaign, the dose/s which have been taken will be recorded twice; on the vaccination card and as part of the campaign records.

### **If a child has already been vaccinated with the recommended doses of measles vaccine, does he/she need the MMR vaccine?**

Every additional dose your child can get will give extra protection.

### **Is there a risk to give too many doses?**

No, the vaccine is safe and more the doses, the better the protection.

### **Is the vaccine safe?**

Yes, the vaccine is very safe and it complies with the highest quality standards set by the World Health Organization.

### **Is there a link between MMR vaccine and autism?**

No, scientists have carefully studied the MMR shot. None has found a link between autism and MMR vaccine.