

MEASLES RESPONSE WEBINAR Q&A

Question: How has vaccination fallen so quickly, when it is a kindergarten entrance requirement?

Answer: The decrease in the MMR vaccine entry requirement has occurred at the same time the religious exemptions have increased. Kindergarten children are complying with school entry requirements by either showing (1) proof of vaccination / immunization record, (2) medical exemption certified by a physician, or (3) religious exemption denoted in writing by a parent or guardian that their child adheres to a religious doctrine whose teaching are opposed to immunizations.

<https://doh.sd.gov/topics/immunizations-vaccinations/immunizations-required-for-sd-school-entry/>

Question: Do you anticipate Measles in SD this summer? If so, would you provide an educated guess for the potential first case (days, weeks, months)?

Answer: Measles cases in the US have continued to increase. While predicting the first measles case is difficult, we anticipate a measles case in SD during 2025 is a matter of when, rather than if, it will occur.

Question: Does the two-hour rule of room isolation after a measles patient is present still apply if the patient was wearing a mask?

Answer: Yes. A patient would most likely be wearing a mask for source control, which decreases, but does not eliminate, the potential for the virus in the air.

Question: Can healthcare workers get a booster without a titer if desired?

Answer: Yes. It might be cost-effective to receive a dose of the MMR vaccine instead of the cost of a blood draw and the titer test.

Question: At this point, are titers still recommended in populations with uncertain immunization status, or is it appropriate for immunizations to be administered based on lack of concrete vaccination evidence?

Answer: The recommendation for a titer check or immunization could depend on the age of the patient, the type of uncertainty around immunization (e.g., lost vaccination card, vaccinated overseas), and the potential for risk (e.g., work in a healthcare setting). You can speak with the immunization program staff to help guide your clinical decision-making by calling 605-773-3737 or 800-592-1861.

Question: Are there any concerns related to vaccine availability with likely upticks of vaccinations?

Answer: The vaccine is available from your local medical provider, and there are no known supply chain concerns.

Question: If someone was fully vaccinated as a child and then had childhood cancer and went through chemo, would that person need to be revaccinated or have titers checked?

Answer: It would be recommended to speak with your medical provider to discuss the cancer treatment received and to review the medical record to understand whether re-vaccination might have occurred after treatment.

Question: Have there been challenges from the current administration? If so, can you speak to those? Will changes within the current administration impact the measles response?

Answer: It is unknown whether staffing changes, funding levels, and reorganization at HHS or CDC might impact the current measles response.

Question: Is there harm in having more than 3 MMR vaccines?

Answer: There are no concerns with receiving a third dose of the MMR vaccine. This is recommended for children 6-12 months who are traveling internationally. The first dose is given before travel (6-11 months of age), and the routine schedule is followed thereafter, with a second dose at 12-15 months and a third dose at 4-6 years.

Question: Is there a website that the general public can check vaccination status?

Answer: South Dakota residents can request a copy of their immunization record by following the instructions at the SD-DOH webpage: <https://doh.sd.gov/topics/immunizations-vaccinations/immunization-records-request/?pvs=21>

Question: Are there any public maps or general information on vaccination rates, county by county or statewide?

Answer: Yes. Information on SD kindergarten and 6th grade vaccination coverage can be found at: <https://doh.sd.gov/health-data-reports/data-dashboards/school-immunization-dashboard/>. Information on vaccination coverage among SD children can be found at: <https://doh.sd.gov/health-data-reports/data-dashboards/childhood-immunization-dashboard/>