

**INFORMATION ON VACCINATION AGAINST
MEASLES, MUMPS and RUBELLA
with M-M-RvaxPro®**

Dear parents or guardians,

In Austria's current immunisation schedule, the National Vaccination Board has again emphasised the importance of providing protection against measles, mumps and rubella for all children. Effective protection comes from having two vaccinations against measles, mumps and rubella. All children should have received the second dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine by age 13 at the latest. For this reason, schools offer the combined MMR vaccine free of charge to all children in school years 1 and 7 who have not been previously vaccinated twice against measles, mumps and rubella.

The measles-mumps-rubella vaccine is also recommended and is well tolerated if your child has already contracted one or two of these diseases in the past. It will only be possible to eradicate these diseases in the future when more than 90% of all children have been vaccinated.

Measles is a globally distributed and highly contagious viral disease with symptoms including a fever, cough, sore, red eyes (conjunctivitis) and a rash. People infected with measles can pass on the virus through talking, coughing and sneezing (so-called "droplet infection"). As measles is extremely contagious, it spreads very easily within an unvaccinated group of people (e.g. a school class). Complications may include middle ear infection (otitis media), bronchitis or pneumonia. Some people infected by measles may develop meningitis that can sometimes cause permanent damage. Very rarely, measles may cause a particularly virulent and fatal disease of the central nervous system which occurs years after the infection has been acquired.

Rubella is a highly contagious infectious disease with symptoms including a fever, rash and swollen glands (lymph nodes), which is caused by the rubella virus and has a worldwide distribution. It is spread by droplet transmission. A rubella infection can be dangerous when contracted during pregnancy, as it may cause severe damage to the embryo including serious birth defects affecting brain, sight or heart. Preventive vaccination reduces this risk.

Mumps is a very contagious viral infection spread by droplet transmission. It is most recognisable by the painful swellings of the salivary glands, especially the parotid glands. Sometimes other glands in the body, such as the testicles, ovaries and pancreas may also be affected. When getting mumps after puberty, about one in three male adolescents or adults experience a painful swelling of the testicles (orchitis), which in rare cases may lead to permanent infertility. About 10 % of persons infected will develop meningitis.

Please turn over – Thank you!

Side effects

Like other medicines, vaccines can also cause unwanted side effects. Together with this information sheet, you will also receive the patient leaflet for the vaccine, which contains information about its composition, possible contraindications and side effects. Please report any reactions and side effects, especially such which are not listed in the patient leaflet, to your doctor immediately.

Getting vaccinated

A vaccination can only be performed by the school doctors of Municipal Department 15 – Public Health Services if the child's parents/guardians have signed and submitted the consent form. However, your consent does not guarantee that your child will automatically be vaccinated. This decision is made by the doctor on the basis of the information you have provided. If your child has been ill or has received any other vaccination in the period of time between filling in the consent form and the actual vaccination appointment, please tell the doctor or your child's class teacher before the vaccination. Your school will tell you the date of the vaccination appointment in due time.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILD BRING ALL VACCINATION DOCUMENTS (health passport, vaccination passport, vaccination card).

This will help the doctor to check which vaccine your child needs.

THANK YOU!