

# Addressing Concerns about Measles Vaccination

Measles is a vaccine-preventable disease. This means a vaccine can prevent people from getting and spreading this disease. The best defense to prevent future cases of vaccine-preventable disease is to keep vaccination rates high in Los Angeles County.



## 1. Are vaccines safe?

Yes. Most vaccines come with mild side effects, such as redness or soreness around the injection site. Sometimes, children will have a mild fever or appear more tired. More serious side effects are very rare. You are much more likely to have serious health problems from the disease, than from the vaccine.

## 2. Do vaccines cause autism?

Vaccines do not cause autism. This myth stemmed from a flawed study which was later retracted. Subsequent studies have found no connection between vaccines and autism. More information about these studies can be found here:

[www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html)

## 3. Are vaccines effective?

Yes. Vaccines have protected people from many serious illnesses. For example, smallpox was eradicated in the world in 1977. Polio hasn't spread in the U.S. since 1979. Measles was eliminated in the U.S. in 2000.

Despite these successes, vaccine-preventable diseases can spread easily when unvaccinated travelers bring the virus from other countries into the U.S. Also, if children stop getting vaccines, these diseases spread easily.

There is a small chance that vaccinated people can get sick during an outbreak since no vaccine is 100% effective. The measles vaccine is 95% effective in preventing disease.

### Key Points:

- Vaccination is the best way to prevent many diseases, like measles.
- Vaccination is safe and effective.
- Vaccination protects you and your community from serious diseases.
- The best defense against future cases is to keep vaccination rates high in Los Angeles County.

### For more information:

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Immunization Schedules- For You & Your Family**

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/)

**Measles**

[www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/measles/index.html)

**MMR Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)**

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mmr.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mmr.html)

**Vaccine Safety FAQs for Parents & Caregivers**

[www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/caregivers/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/caregivers/faqs.html)

### 4. How do vaccines help prevent disease in individuals and communities?

Vaccines can protect us from getting disease and also prevents spread of disease in the community. Anyone who is not vaccinated is at greater risk of getting sick, such as babies that are too young to get vaccinated, people with weak immune systems, and people with serious allergies to the vaccine. When more people are vaccinated, the level of protection in the community increases, and the chance of spreading the disease to unvaccinated persons decreases.

### 5. What is the Department of Public Health doing to promote vaccination?

The LA County Department of Public Health works to promote vaccines by:

- Helping communities make informed decisions about vaccines through focused vaccination campaigns.
- Providing guidance, education materials, and training to immunization providers to ensure that vaccines are safe, effective, and given to the right patient at the right time.
- Helping schools and childcare centers follow immunization requirements and educating students and parents about these laws.
- Conducting surveillance on vaccine-preventable diseases and responding to cases to prevent spread.

### 6. Where can you go to get vaccinated?

Call your healthcare provider to get an MMR vaccine. If you do not have health insurance or a regular healthcare provider, visit [publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/clinics.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/clinics.htm) or dial 2-1-1 for a list of low- or no-cost vaccine clinics, including Vaccine for Children provider locations that serve MediCal-eligible children.

## Want to learn more about vaccination?



### **California School, Childcare/Daycare, Schools, Colleges & Universities Immunization Information**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Vaccine Preventable Disease Control Program  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/index.htm](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/index.htm)

### **Vaccine Requirements for School Entry**

California Department of Public Health  
[www.shotsforschool.org/](http://www.shotsforschool.org/)