

Bringing forward the second dose of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine

What will change?

In Flanders, children will now receive the second dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine from the age of 24 months.

- First dose: at 12 months (as before)
- Second dose: at 24 months (previously at 9 years of age)

Why this change?

- Measles is a **very infectious** disease that may cause serious health complications.
- By giving the second dose earlier, more children will be **protected at a younger age**.
- Two doses provide about 99% of children with protection against measles.

When will my child receive the second dose?

To provide the second dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine from 24 months of age, we will offer it both at primary schools and to two-year-old children in the coming years. The place and timing of vaccination depend on your year of birth.

- Children under 24 months (born in 2023 or later) will now be vaccinated from 24 months of age. This dose will be offered by Kind en Gezin during your child's 24- or 30-month check-up. Has your child attended all appointments with Kind en Gezin? Then you can visit your general practitioner or paediatrician for the second dose.
- Children over 24 months (born from 2023) will receive their second dose in either their second or fourth year of school (see diagram). For this purpose, the CLB schedules vaccination sessions during the school year.

Table:

When and where will my child receive the second dose of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine?

Your year of birth	Second dose
Born in 2023	From 24 months via Kind en Gezin or through your general practitioner/paediatrician
Born in 2023 and has completed all Kind en Gezin appointments	Through your general practitioner or paediatrician
Born between 2018 and 2022	At age 7 (second year of primary school), the vaccination is offered by the CLB at school or by your general practitioner/paediatrician.
Born before 2018	At age 9 (fourth year of primary school), the vaccination is offered by the CLB at school or by your general practitioner/paediatrician.

Do I need to make an appointment for this vaccination myself?

- This dose will be offered by Kind en Gezin during your child's 24- or 30-month check-up. Have you already attended all the appointments at Kind en Gezin? If so, make an appointment with your general practitioner or paediatrician.
- The CLB automatically schedules vaccination sessions during the school year.
- If you wish to have the vaccination administered by your general practitioner or paediatrician, you will need to make an appointment yourself.

Has your child missed a vaccination? Do you have any other questions?

No worries! Talk to your doctor, Kind en Gezin or the CLB. They will be happy to help you.