

# Measles MMR Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Standing Order Template for Exposed Individuals

## Instructions for Local Health Department Staff

Use the language in this standing order template to create a customized standing order exclusively for your agency. Your customized standing order should include a header with your agency name, effective start date, and expiration date. Review the standing order at least annually and obtain Medical Director's signature

## STANDING ORDER:

### BACKGROUND

The purpose of the standing order is to allow the nurse to provide timely intervention to stop the spread of measles through vaccine administration. MMR vaccine, given within 72 hours of exposure to measles, is effective at preventing infection in susceptible, exposed, vaccine eligible individuals.

### ASSESSMENT

#### Subjective Findings:

Asymptomatic individual seeks care at *List Agency Name Here* for exposure to Measles virus.

#### Objective Findings (all four must be present):

- 1) Individual is *Susceptible* – Individual does NOT have evidence of:
  - a. Written documentation of age-appropriate vaccine for measles
  - b. Laboratory evidence of immunity
  - c. Laboratory confirmation of disease
  - d. Birth before 1957\*

\*For unvaccinated health care personnel born before 1957 that lack laboratory evidence of measles immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease, health care facilities should consider vaccinating personnel with two doses of MMR vaccine at the appropriate interval

- 2) Individual is *Exposed* – Individual shared indoor airspace (e.g. sitting in same room or taking the same bus, plane) with a confirmed measles case, or within 2 hours of the case having been present in the space.
- 3) Individual is *Vaccine eligible* – Individual presents for MMR PEP AND does not possess any contraindications. A contraindication is a condition in a recipient that greatly increases the chance of a serious adverse reaction (or due to the theoretical risk in the case of pregnant women) AND individual had initial exposure to measles less than 72 hours ago.
- 4) Individual is aged 6 months or older.

### PLAN OF CARE

#### Implementation

A registered nurse employed or contracted by *List Agency Name Here* may administer MMR vaccine by standing order to individuals meeting the subjective and objective findings listed above. Staff will follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and product manufacturer guidelines.

For individuals meeting the subjective and objective criteria listed above, administer:

MMR vaccine, 0.5 mL, either subcutaneously or intramuscularly (*LHD should edit this to fit your agency process for reconstitution and administration of MMR vaccine.*)

#### Nursing Actions

1. Provide patient education as described below:

- Review Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) sheet with patient:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/current-vis/mmr.html>
- Patient receiving PEP within 72 hours of exposure will be monitored for symptoms for 21 days after exposure, but may return to school, work, or other activities (unless otherwise indicated)

2. Advise patient to contact their health care provider if they develop an allergic reaction or rash and mention both the measles exposure and PEP, as described in the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS).
3. Advise patient to seek medical care right away (go to Emergency Room or call 911) if patient experiences:
  - Closing of the throat or trouble breathing
  - Swelling of the lips, tongue, or face
  - Severe itching or rash, especially hives and wheals (red swollen bumps on the skin)

**CRITERIA FOR NOTIFYING THE MEDICAL PROVIDER:**

- If there is any question about whether to carry out this standing order
- Patient is less than 6 months of age and exposed to measles
- Patient has any contraindication, for example:
  - Had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a vaccine component
  - Has a known severe immunodeficiency (e.g., from hematologic and solid tumors, receipt of chemotherapy, congenital immunodeficiency, long-term immunosuppressive therapy or patients with human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infection who are severely immunocompromised)
  - Is pregnant

Contact the patient's physician immediately in the event of an adverse reaction or unexpected symptoms, complications or other situations occur following the administration of vaccine.

**REFERENCES:**

1. ACIP Recommendations: Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) Vaccine. Published July 29, 2024. Retrieved May 7, 2025 from <https://www.cdc.gov/acip-recs/hcp/vaccine-specific/mmr.html>
2. Measles Vaccination. Retrieved May 7, 2025 from <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/vaccines/index.html>