

## Vaccination Q&A

### Measles notifications have increased in Australia this year - who is at risk?

Measles is a highly contagious disease that causes fever, cold-like symptoms (runny nose, cough and red, watery eyes) and a fine red rash. Up to a third of people infected with measles will experience a complication. Complications include pneumonia, inflammation of the ear, diarrhoea and vomiting, miscarriage or premature labour and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Measles is rare in Australia but cases still occur. Anyone who is not immune, in particular unvaccinated children and adults born after 1966 are at high risk of infection. Most people born before 1966 are likely to be immune from natural infection which was common before that time. It is particularly important for healthcare workers, those who work with children, and for travellers to reduce their risk of catching, and then spreading the disease. It is also an important consideration for women planning to become pregnant. People with a chronic illness, children younger than 5 years and adults are at an increased risk of measles complications. Please speak to your doctor regarding your individual circumstances. Two doses of a measles containing vaccine are currently funded on the NIP for children.

For more information visit:  [myvaccination.com.au](http://myvaccination.com.au)

GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne, VIC. AUS/PRI/0011/13(1). Date of approval: July 2014.