

KEY FACTS ON POLIO

- Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus, and can cause permanent paralysis and/or even DEATH.

- Children under 5 years are at greatest risk of getting polio disease.

- Polio virus enters the body through the mouth from water or food that has been contaminated with faecal material (“pek-pek”) by an infected person.

- Polio spreads very fast in places with poor hygiene and sanitation, open defecation and overcrowding.

- Polio vaccine protects children against polio disease. The vaccine is safe and effective.

- Children require multiple doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) for full protection against polio infection.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (POLIO)

WHAT IS POLIO?

Polio is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus, which affects mostly young children. The virus invades the nervous system, and can cause permanent paralysis or even death in a matter of hours. There is no cure for polio, however it can be prevented by polio vaccine.

HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

Polio virus enters the body through the mouth, in water or food that has been contaminated with faecal material (“pek-pek”) from an infected person. The virus multiplies in the intestine and is excreted by the infected person in faeces, which can pass on the virus to others.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF POLIO?

Initial symptoms of polio are:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Stiffness in the neck
- Headache
- Pain in the limbs

IS THERE A CURE FOR POLIO?

No! There is no cure for polio. It can only be prevented by vaccination. Safe and effective polio vaccines exist – the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and the Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV).

HOW SAFE IS THE ORAL POLIO VACCINE (OPV)?

OPV is safe, effective and protects children against polio. It has been used all over the world to protect children against polio.

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF POLIO VACCINATION?

Children need multiple doses of polio vaccine for full protection. They should be vaccinated in every round to further boost their immunity.

TOGETHER, LET US PROTECT OUR CHILDREN AGAINST VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES!

VACCINATE YOUR CHILD AGAINST

MEASLES-RUBELLA & POLIO DISEASES



GET YOUR CHILD VACCINATED AT THE NEAREST VACCINATION CENTRE

VACCINES SAVE LIVES



KEY FACTS ON MEASLES

- Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus. It spreads easily from child-to-child especially in crowded places.
- Measles may spread from person-to-person when an infected child coughs or sneezes.
- Measles infection starts with high fever followed by:
 - *Cough, runny nose, red and watery eyes*
 - *Rash of tiny, red spots* that start at the head and spread to the rest of the body
- Measles infection may result in complications such as *prolonged diarrhea, pneumonia, blindness, brain damage* and even *death* in very young children.
- You can catch measles just by being in a room where a person with measles has been, up to 2 hours after that person has left the room. Also, you can catch measles from an infected person even before they have a measles rash.
- Measles can be prevented with **VACCINATION**. Most children will need 2 or 3 doses for full protection.
- During the upcoming vaccination campaign, all children between 6 months and 5 years old should be vaccinated with measles-rubella vaccine, even if they already received a routine immunization dose to boost their immunity.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (MEASLES)

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD HAS MEASLES?

Common signs include *fever, a red blotchy rash* over the whole body, *cough, runny nose* and *red eyes*.

WHY SHOULD I WORRY IF MY CHILD IS NOT VACCINATED AGAINST MEASLES?

Measles illness can lead to serious complications such as *ear/eye infections* (which can lead to *blindness*); *pneumonia* and *encephalitis (brain infection)*. Measles kills more children than any other vaccine-preventable disease and is highly contagious.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY CHILD?

Vaccinate your child! The vaccines are very safe, effective and free. The Government will be administering the measles and rubella vaccines together to ensure your child is protected from these diseases.

IF MY CHILD IS SICK, CAN HE/SHE STILL BE VACCINATED?

Yes, your child can be vaccinated in case of mild illness. You don't need to wait until he/she gets well.

I HAVE HEARD RUMOURS AGAINST VACCINES, HOW TRUE ARE THESE RUMOURS?

Vaccines are very safe, contrary to any rumour. They are effective and provide lifetime protection from dangerous childhood diseases.

KEY FACTS ON RUBELLA

- Rubella is a contagious viral infection that usually causes a *mild fever and rash illness* in children and adults. It is the leading vaccine-preventable cause of birth defects.
- Rubella spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The disease is most contagious when the infected person has a rash. But it can spread up to 7 days before the rash appears and up to 7 days after. People without symptoms can still spread rubella.
- Rubella is prevented through vaccination.
- The rubella vaccine is usually combined with the measles vaccine and given in one injection. The measles-rubella vaccine is safe and effective in preventing both measles and rubella diseases.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (RUBELLA)

WHAT IS RUBELLA?

Rubella is an infection caused by a virus. The infection can result in *fever, rash* and sometimes *painful, swollen joints* and, in very rare cases, *inflammation of the brain (encephalitis)* and *bleeding disorders*.

WHAT CAUSES RUBELLA?

Rubella is caused by a virus. It can easily spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Children can also become infected if they rub their eyes or mouths after touching toys or other items that someone with rubella has touched.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF RUBELLA?

The first symptoms of rubella include *fever, swollen glands* and, in some cases, *a rash*. The rash, which may be itchy, begins on the face and then moves downwards from head to foot and lasts about 3 days.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY CHILD AGAINST RUBELLA?

The measles-rubella vaccine prevents both measles and rubella diseases.

