

Measles Vaccine Guideline

Reason for Guideline:

To ensure that patients with cancer and/or on treatment receive appropriate measles immunization advice.

General information on MMR vaccine:

- The MMR vaccine is a live, attenuated combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.
- All unimmunized or incompletely immunized individuals should receive measles vaccine. More information is available at:
 - www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/measles
 - www.bccdc.ca/health-info/immunization-vaccines/vaccines-in-bc/measles-vaccine

Specific recommendations for oncology patients:

1. Lymphoma patients should **NOT** receive the MMR vaccine until treatment has been completed for at least 6 months, then discuss with medical oncologist or hematologist.
2. Other patients should generally not receive the MMR vaccine IF they are on active treatment with cytotoxic chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy, until 3 months after the end of their treatment.
3. Patients (non-lymphoma patients) may receive MMR vaccine if they are only on active treatment with hormonal therapy (e.g., tamoxifen, anti-androgens) or on surveillance. They should not have had active treatment within the past 3 months with cytotoxic chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy.
4. No special precautions are required after MMR immunization of household contacts (e.g., families and care providers), regardless of whether they have post-vaccine rash.

References:

1. BCCDC. Communicable Disease Control Manual. Chapter 2: Immunization. Part 4 – Biological Products. MMR Vaccine. Jan 2018.
2. BCCDC. Communicable Disease Immunization Program. Section III – Immunization of Special Populations. May 2016.
3. BCCDC. Measles information for British Columbians. 24 Feb 2019
4. Canadian Immunization Guide. Part 3 – Vaccination of Specific Populations. May 2018.
5. ACIP Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Chapter 8 – Altered Immunocompetence.
6. NHS. Immunisation guidance for adult cancer patients receiving cytotoxic chemotherapy. 2016.
7. Public Health England. Guidelines on post-exposure prophylaxis for measles. August 2017.
8. Dr. Althea Hayden, Medical Health Officer, VCH. Personal communication. 27 Feb 2019.