FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

VACCINATION FOR BABIES AND CHILDREN

1. What is the routine measles vaccination schedule in Singapore?

Two doses of vaccine are recommended – the first dose at 12 months of age, followed by the second dose at 15-18 months of age. The vaccine that is used in Singapore and in other countries is the combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

2. Should I vaccinate my baby against measles before 12 months of age?

MMR vaccination before 12 months of age is not routinely recommended as the vaccine is less effective under this age.

3. My child has only received one dose of MMR vaccine. Does he need the second dose of MMR vaccine?

Two doses of MMR vaccine are required for adequate protection.

VACCINATION FOR TRAVELLERS

1. Why should I be vaccinated against measles before travelling to the Philippines?

Any person who has not been vaccinated against measles, or not had measles, may come down with the disease and infect others who have no immunity against measles. The best prevention against measles is by vaccination if a person has not had measles before.

2. I am not sure if I have been vaccinated against measles before. Should I still go for vaccination?

Vaccination is not necessary if a person has had measles or has been vaccinated before. However, if you are not sure, you can consult a medical doctor for advice.

3. When should I go for vaccination prior to my trip?

Persons travelling to the Philippines, including Filipinos living in Singapore who return to the Philippines for a home visit, are advised to be vaccinated at least 4-6 weeks prior to departure if they have not had measles before and had not been previously vaccinated against measles.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What are the signs and symptoms of measles? Is it fatal?
The symptoms of measles generally begin about 7 to 14 days after a person is infected. Common symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, red, watery eyes, and skin rash.

A red or reddish-brown rash appears three to five days after the start of symptoms. The rash begins at the face and then spreads downward to cover the whole body. After a few days, the fever subsides and the rash fades.

Most people recover completely from the disease. However, complications such as ear and lung infections and inflammation of the brain can occur.

After a person recovers from measles, he/she will have life-long protection against the disease.

2. **How is measles spread?**

Measles is spread by contact with an infected person through coughing and sneezing. A person is highly contagious for four days before, and four days after, the rash appears.

3. **How can measles be prevented?**

Vaccination is the best way to prevent measles.

4. **How long does the protection last after vaccination?**

Two doses of MMR vaccination confer life-long protection.

5. **What is the cost of MMR vaccination?**

The MMR vaccination is available at polyclinics, private General Practitioner (GP) clinics, and private paediatric clinics (for babies and children). Different institutions may have different pricing as their costs may differ. You may thus want to consult your healthcare provider on the charges.

6. **Where can I find more information?**

For further information on measles, please refer to the measles article on HPB website at: [http://hpb.gov.sg/HOPPortal/article?id=562](http://hpb.gov.sg/HOPPortal/article?id=562)

For information on recommended measles vaccination schedule for children, please visit HPB’s National Immunisation Registry website at: [https://www.nir.hpb.gov.sg/](https://www.nir.hpb.gov.sg/)

For health-related enquiries, please contact **MOH General Line: 6325-9220** or email [moh_info@moh.gov.sg](mailto:moh_info@moh.gov.sg).