

Separating myths from facts

In the late 1990s, research was published suggesting a possible link between the MMR vaccine and autism. However, this research was later thoroughly discredited, and its findings have been proven incorrect. The person behind the study was removed from the medical register due to serious professional misconduct. Despite this, concerns continue to circulate, but extensive scientific studies

have consistently shown no connection between the MMR vaccine and autism. Many studies have shown that there is no link between autism and the MMR vaccine; Oxford University have a very useful webpage listing the studies which can be viewed here:



One huge study, by the Statens Serum Institut in Denmark, looked at more than 650,000 children and the evidence shows that MMR vaccination does not increase risk for autism and also does not trigger autism in susceptible children.

The group of children in this study that did not have the MMR vaccine were just as likely to be found to have autism as the children who

did receive the protection. Please be confident that you can safely vaccinate your family with the MMR vaccine.

If you have any further questions or concerns about getting you or your child vaccinated then ask your GP, practice nurse, midwife or health visitor for advice.



Understanding the MMR vaccine



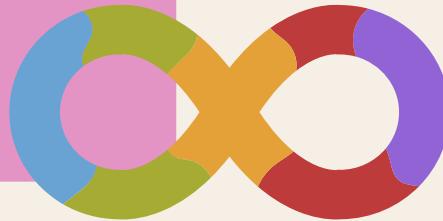
Helping you to know the facts before you get vaxxed

There is no link between MMR and autism although they coincidentally both come to our attention at about the same age.

What is Autism?

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people. They may:

- find it hard to communicate and interact with other people
- find it hard to understand how other people think or feel
- find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful or uncomfortable
- get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events
- take longer to understand information
- do or think the same things over and over



Autism is something you are born with, and signs of autism might be noticed when you are very young. Often it is around the age of **12-18 months** that parents first notice that their child may be autistic. Autism is a spectrum and affects different people in different ways.

Autism is

- **not** caused by bad parenting
- **not** caused by any vaccines
- **not** linked to diet
- **not** an infection you can spread to other people

The National Autistic Society state that there is no link between autism and vaccines.

scan here for more information on autism



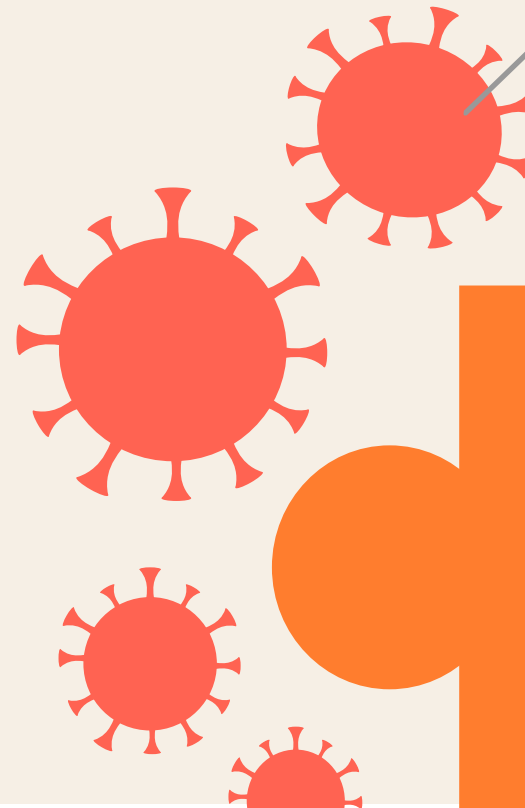
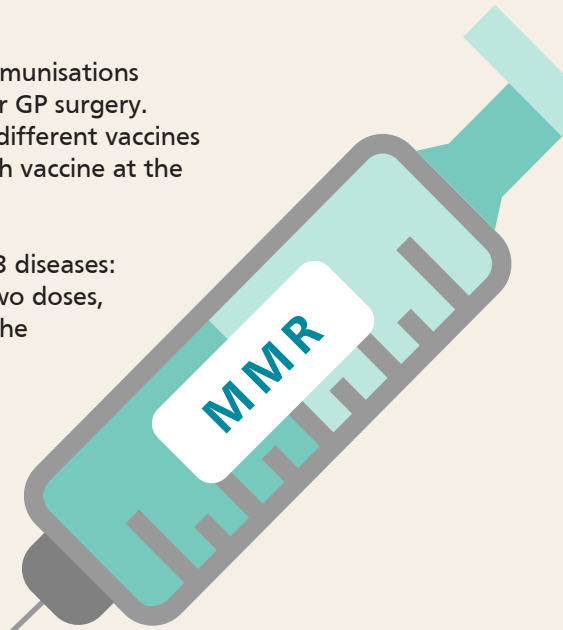
scan here to read about the causes of autism



What is the MMR vaccine?

The MMR vaccine is a part of the routine immunisations offered to all people in the UK through their GP surgery. Children's immune systems respond well to different vaccines at different ages, so they are invited for each vaccine at the best time.

The MMR vaccine protects children against 3 diseases: measles, mumps and rubella, it is given as two doses, the first is just after **12 months of age** and the second dose is offered later. By having both doses children are around 96% likely to be protected against measles so this is a really effective vaccine, it is also very safe and almost everyone is able to have the MMR.



Measles is a nasty disease, it spreads very easily if people are not protected, and complications include deafness, blindness, miscarriage, pneumonia and death.

It is estimated that measles vaccines have prevented 4,500 measles deaths since they were first introduced.