Mae Brechu yn achub bywydau
Vaccination saves lives

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru
Public Health Wales

One-dose chickenpox vaccination programme for eligible children

Mae'r wybodaeth hon ar gael yn Gymraeg. This information is available in Welsh.

This leaflet is for parents and carers of children born between **1 January 2020 and 31 August 2022**. These children are being offered a **single dose** of **MMRV** vaccine to help protect them against chickenpox.

Chickenpox infection is usually mild but can sometimes cause serious health problems.

Vaccination is one of the best ways to protect against serious illness.

Scan me for more information on MMRV

SKU IMM266

What vaccination is my child being offered?

Your child is being offered one dose of the **MMRV** vaccine. The MMRV vaccine helps protect against measles, mumps, rubella and **chickenpox (varicella)**. They should have had two doses of the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine when they were younger. The MMR vaccine does not help protect against chickenpox.

Your child does not need the vaccine if:

- they have had chickenpox before, or
- They have already had **two** doses of a chickenpox vaccine

If your child has already had chickenpox, or had two doses of a chickenpox vaccine, they are likely to be protected against chickenpox. They do not need another vaccine as part of this programme. However, it is still safe for your child to have the MMRV vaccine. If you are unsure, it is better to have the vaccine.

When can my child have the vaccine?

You should be contacted by your GP surgery during this period to arrange vaccination. This could be by a letter, text, phone call or email. This offer is until March 2028.



What is chickenpox?

Chickenpox (also known as varicella zoster virus) spreads very easily. It is very common in the UK and mostly affects children, but anyone can catch it.

For most children, chickenpox is a mild illness

that gets better on its own. For some children, however, it can be very serious. The risk of serious illness from chickenpox is much higher than people used to think. Some people may need to be treated in hospital if they get problems from the infection.



Infection from chickenpox can lead to serious illnesses. These include:

- Severe bacterial infections of the skin
- Lung problems (such as pneumonia)
- Fits (seizures)
- Swelling in the brain (encephalitis)
- Stroke in children

Symptoms of chickenpox include a rash of red, itchy spots that turn into fluid-filled blisters. The blisters then crust over to form scabs, which eventually drop off. Before the rash appears, your child may have some mild flu-like symptoms.

Once your child has had chickenpox, it is unlikely they will get it again. However, the virus can stay in their nerves and could cause an illness with a painful rash when they are older. This is called shingles. It is worse in older people and in people with weakened immune systems.

Will one dose of MMRV protect my child against chickenpox?

One dose of MMRV is more than 90% effective at protecting against chickenpox infection. It is about 99% effective in protecting against severe chickenpox infection.

Is it safe to have MMRV if my child has already had two MMR vaccines before?

Yes. It is safe to have three MMR-containing vaccines.

The MMRV vaccine has been used safely in other countries for many years.

Should anyone not have the vaccine?

Very few children cannot have the MMRV vaccination. Your child should not have the MMRV vaccine if they have had a serious (life-threatening) reaction to:

- a previous dose of the same vaccine, or
- any ingredient in the vaccine.

Your child should not have the MMRV vaccine if they have a weakened immune system. This is because the MMRV vaccine contains weakened, living viruses.

Tell the person giving your child the vaccine if any of these apply.



Which vaccine will my child receive?

In Wales, the MMRV vaccines used are ProQuad and Priorix Tetra.

If it is important to you that the vaccine does not contain pork gelatine, please speak to the healthcare professional giving the vaccine. Priorix Tetra does not contain pork gelatine. For more information about pork gelatine, visit **phw.nhs.wales/PorkGelatine**

You will be given a record card to record your MMRV vaccination. Or you can use the table below:

MMRV vaccine	Date given

This information is correct at the time of publication.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit **phw.nhs.wales/vaccines**

Further information

If you have any questions or want more information, you can go to **111.wales.nhs.uk** (external site). You can also talk to your doctor or nurse or contact NHS 111 Wales by calling **111**.

You can find out more information on vaccines offered in Wales at **phw.nhs.wales/vaccines**

To find out more about the vaccine, including its contents and possible side effects, go to **medicines.org.uk/emc** (external site)**.** You will need to enter the name of the vaccine in the search box. You can also see the patient leaflet online.

You can find the name of the vaccine at **phw.nhs.wales/MMRV-MMR**

You should report suspected side effects online at **www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard** (external site). You can also download the Yellow Card app, or call **0800 731 6789** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

To find out how the NHS uses your information, go to **111.wales.nhs.uk/AboutUs/Yourinformation** (external site).

Scan me to go to the Public Health Wales website

Version 1a | November 2026

Public Health Wales is the national public health agency in Wales. We work to protect and improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities for the people of Wales.

© Public Health Wales NHS Trust (with acknowledgement to UK Health Security Agency)

ISBN 978-1-83766-967-7