

## CLINICAL ISSUES

1. It has been confirmed that there is no harm in giving an additional vaccination to someone who may have already had two MMR vaccines previously when this cannot be confirmed by the patient or the practice (i.e. when the patient cannot remember whether they have been vaccinated or the practice records do not show that vaccination has been given).
2. Incubation period (time between exposure and first symptoms) is 8-10 days.
3. Advice from the Health Protection Agency is that for patients with a confirmed diagnosis of measles there is no recommendation to have a measles vaccination. Some patients may need to be given the MMR vaccine to protect them from mumps and rubella. If the MMR is to be given, it **MUST NOT** be given in the acute phase of measles. The advice is to wait between two and four weeks (or longer if necessary), until the acute phase of the illness is over and the patient is feeling well.
4. It takes between 10 and 14 days for the vaccine to take effect. After the first dose, between 90% and 95% of children are protected against measles, mumps and rubella. After two doses of MMR, more than 99% of children are protected against each of the diseases. Because at any time between 1% and 10% of children in the community are not protected, it is extremely important that every reasonable attempt is made to offer both doses of the MMR vaccine as necessary.