

MMR Standing Order FAQ

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) has issued a standing order authorizing qualified pharmacy licensees to administer the Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The standing order serves as a prescription for eligible individuals 3–17 years of age, allowing children and teens to receive the MMR vaccine at all pharmacies across the State.

This standing order does not replace parental consent, and the pharmacist should follow their standard processes for obtaining consent for this vaccination.

To provide clarity, the Maine CDC is sharing the following information, which is current as of May 15, 2026:

What is a standing order?

A standing order is an official directive that enables specified health care professionals (such as pharmacists) to administer a medication or vaccine to groups of patients without a patient-specific prescription. It can streamline access, reduce barriers, and ensure consistency across the State.

Which pharmacy personnel are authorized under this standing order?

This Standing Order authorizes certain qualified pharmacy licensees to administer MMR vaccine. Qualified Pharmacy Licensees are defined as individuals who both (1) hold a Maine Board of Pharmacy license in active status, see 32 M.R.S. § 13721(1)(A),(G-H); 02-392 C.M.R. Chapters 4, 6-A, and 7, and (2) meet the requirements of 32 M.R.S. §§ 13831(6), 13832, 13834 (as the same may be amended), and 02-392 C.M.R. Chapters 4-A.

What does the standing order issued by the Maine CDC authorize?

On May 15, 2026, the Maine CDC issued a standing order authorizing qualified pharmacy licensees across the State of Maine to administer MMR vaccine to eligible individuals age 3-17. This allows Maine people to get vaccinated at participating pharmacies, without needing a prescription from their primary care provider.

The purpose of the standing order is to expand authority to administer these vaccines to additional age groups without the need for a prescription.

This standing order is effective May 15, 2026, and shall remain in effect until withdrawn or until January 1, 2027, whichever comes first.

Who should get vaccinated?

- **Children:** Children should routinely receive two doses of MMR vaccine, one at 12-15 months and a second at 4-6 years. Children can receive a second dose early in certain circumstances (e.g., prior to travel), as long as it is 28 days after the first dose. *Note: This standing order applies only to individuals 3-17 years of age.*

- **Adults and older children not up to date:** Adults and older children without evidence of immunity* should receive at least one dose of MMR. Two doses are recommended for certain populations (e.g., health care providers, students at post-high school educational institutions). Administration of MMR vaccine by pharmacists to adults age 18 years and older is already allowed under Maine statute.
- **Travelers:** Everyone 12 months of age or older without evidence of immunity should receive two doses of measles containing vaccine prior to travel internationally or domestically to an area with ongoing measles outbreak.
- **Exposed contacts:** All contacts of known measles cases 6 months of age and older should receive an MMR vaccine unless they have documented evidence of immunity.*
- *Note: This standing order applies only to individuals 3-17 years of age.*

*Acceptable evidence of immunity includes written documentation of adequate vaccination, laboratory evidence of immunity, laboratory confirmation of measles, or birth before 1957.

Who should NOT get vaccinated?

- **History of severe allergy:** As with any vaccine, if a patient had an allergic reaction to a previous dose of the MMR (or MMRV) vaccine or any component in the vaccine, or has any serious, life-threatening allergies, they should not get vaccinated.
- **Individuals with contraindications to live vaccines:** The MMR vaccine is a live-attenuated vaccine which means health care provides need to carefully screen for any conditions that would make this vaccine contraindicated. These could include individuals who:
 - Are or may be pregnant,
 - Have a weakened immune system due to disease or medical treatment, such as taking immunosuppressing medications, certain cancers affecting the immune system, and HIV infection,
 - Have active untreated tuberculosis,
 - Have moderate or severe febrile illness,
 - Have received a live-attenuated vaccine in the past four weeks.

*Note: Please review package insert and any additional resources necessary to determine if deferring vaccination is necessary.

What if a patient has an unknown vaccination history?

Individuals without documented evidence of immunity, including vaccine records, should receive an MMR vaccine. There is no harm in getting another dose of MMR vaccine for individuals who may already be immune to measles.

What responsibilities do qualified pharmacy licensees have in administering vaccines?

Qualified pharmacy licensees must follow the requirements in administering a vaccine, including providing patients with requisite information, maintaining adequate records, and

adhering to statutory and regulatory requirements, including reporting requirements. Vaccinators should know how to recognize and respond to vaccine reactions and report all adverse events.

Report vaccine administration within 72 hours to the Maine's Immunization Information System (IIS), [ImmPact](#).