



V A C C I N E S   A T   W O R K :

## PROTECTING GENERATIONS FROM

# MEASLES, MUMPS, AND RUBELLA

Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) are exceptionally contagious diseases that can lead to severe illness, neurological complications, lifelong disability, and death. Young children, pregnant women, and the babies they carry are at high risk. All three viruses when caught during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. But thanks to the development and widespread adoption of vaccines, the threat of measles, mumps, and rubella today is negligible.

**However, measles, mumps, and rubella will circulate again, leading to outbreaks, if vaccination rates fall below certain levels.**



### MMR Vaccine: Before and After<sup>1</sup>

- 1963** Before the measles vaccine, the U.S. reported over **4 million cases** per year.
- 1965** The FDA approved the **first measles vaccine**.
- 1967** The FDA approved the **first mumps vaccine**.
- 1969** The FDA approved **three rubella vaccines**.
- 1971** The FDA approved the **combined MMR vaccine**.
- 2000** Measles and rubella **no longer endemic in U.S.**



## The Future of MMR Vaccinations

The measles vaccine has **averted an estimated**

# 60 million measles deaths

between 2000 and 2023.<sup>2</sup>

Without the measles vaccine, approximately

# 800,000 people would die

per year, most children under 5 years old.<sup>3</sup>

Vaccines **eliminated rubella in**

# 81 countries

but it would resurge and cause miscarriages, still births, and serious abnormalities in unborn babies if immunization rates decline.<sup>4</sup>

**Safe and effective vaccines are essential to protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities by thwarting resurgence of preventable diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella.**

**Visit [fightinfectiousdisease.org](https://fightinfectiousdisease.org) to learn more.**

<sup>1</sup> [Vaccines: Preventing Disease, Saving Lives and Reducing Healthcare Costs Over Time](#) (Partnership to Fight Infectious Disease)

<sup>2</sup> [History of the Measles Vaccine](#) (World Health Organization)

<sup>3</sup> [Progress Toward Measles Elimination – Worldwide, 2000-2023](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

<sup>4</sup> [Prevention of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella: 40 Years of Global Experience with M-M-R](#) (Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics)

