

Measles vaccination and Breastfeeding

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In light of the ongoing problem with measles outbreaks some mothers who did not have their vaccinations as children may now be looking at protecting themselves and hence their babies who are too young to be vaccinated.

Breast-feeding is not a contraindication to MMR immunisation.

MMR vaccine can be given to breast-feeding mothers without any risk to their baby. Very occasionally, rubella vaccine virus has been found in breast milk, but this has not caused any symptoms in the baby (Buimovici-Klein et al., 1997; Landes et al., 1980; Losonsky et al., 1982). The vaccine does not work when taken orally. There is no evidence of mumps and measles vaccine viruses being found in breast milk.

References

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- Buimovici-Klein E, Hite RL, Byrne T and Cooper LR (1997) Isolation of rubella virus in milk after postpartum immunization. *J Pediatr* 91: 939–43.
- Hale T. Medications in Mothers Milk
- Jones W Breastfeeding and Medication 2018 Routledge
- Lactmed website <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT>
- Landes RD, Bass JW, Millunchick EW and Oetgen WJ (1980) Neonatal rubella following postpartum maternal immunisation. *J Pediatr* 97: 465–7.
- Losonsky GA, Fishaut JM, Strussenberg J and Ogra PL (1982) Effect of immunization against rubella on lactation products. I. Development and characterization of specific immunologic reactivity in breast milk. *J Infect Dis* 145: 654–60.
- The Green Book <http://immunisation.dh.gov.uk/green-book-chapters/chapter-21/>

To talk to a mum who knows about breastfeeding call the National Breastfeeding Helpline 0300 100 0212

Calls to 0300 numbers cost no more than calls to UK numbers starting 01 and 02 and will be part of any inclusive minutes that apply to your provider and call package.