I was vaccinated against measles when I was a child. Do I need a booster now that measles is back?

June 4, 2019 By Lucinda K. Porter RN

No, but there are exceptions. The Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) states that people who received two doses of measles vaccine as children according to the United States vaccination schedule are protected for life. Thus, a measles booster is unnecessary.

However, if you were vaccinated prior to 1968, talk to your doctor about being revaccinated. Some people were given a killed version of the measles vaccine and need to receive a live version of the vaccine. The current version is combined with two others to prevent three diseases: measles, mumps, and rubella, known as the MMR vaccine.

Also, if you were vaccinated outside of the United States, you may need to be revaccinated. If you're not sure whether you are fully vaccinated, talk with your doctor. Note that the CDC states that the vaccine should be avoided by people with a weakened immune system due to disease (such as cancer or HIV/AIDS) or medical treatments (such as radiation, immunotherapy, steroids, or chemotherapy).

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