

Vaccine schedule in Ireland

Meningococcal vaccine is recommended at 4 and 6 months as part of the primary childhood immunisation programme. A booster dose is recommended at 13 months.

4.2.6 Mumps

Epidemiology of disease and impact of vaccination

Mumps is an acute viral illness caused by a *paramyxovirus*. In Ireland, mumps has been a statutory notifiable disease since 1988 (Figure 4.6). Mumps vaccine (as MMR) was introduced into the primary childhood immunisation programme in 1988. In 1992, a second dose of MMR was recommended for those aged 10-14 years and the age for this second MMR vaccine was lowered to 4-5 years in 1999.

In 2004, a national mumps outbreak began which continued into 2005. As those affected were mainly third level college students a targeted MMR vaccination programme was introduced for college students and staff under 25 years of age.

Transmission

The virus is spread by close contact with an infected individual and by airborne transmission when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Incubation period

The incubation period ranges from 14-25 days.

Period of infectivity

A person is most contagious from two days before, to four days after, the onset of symptoms.

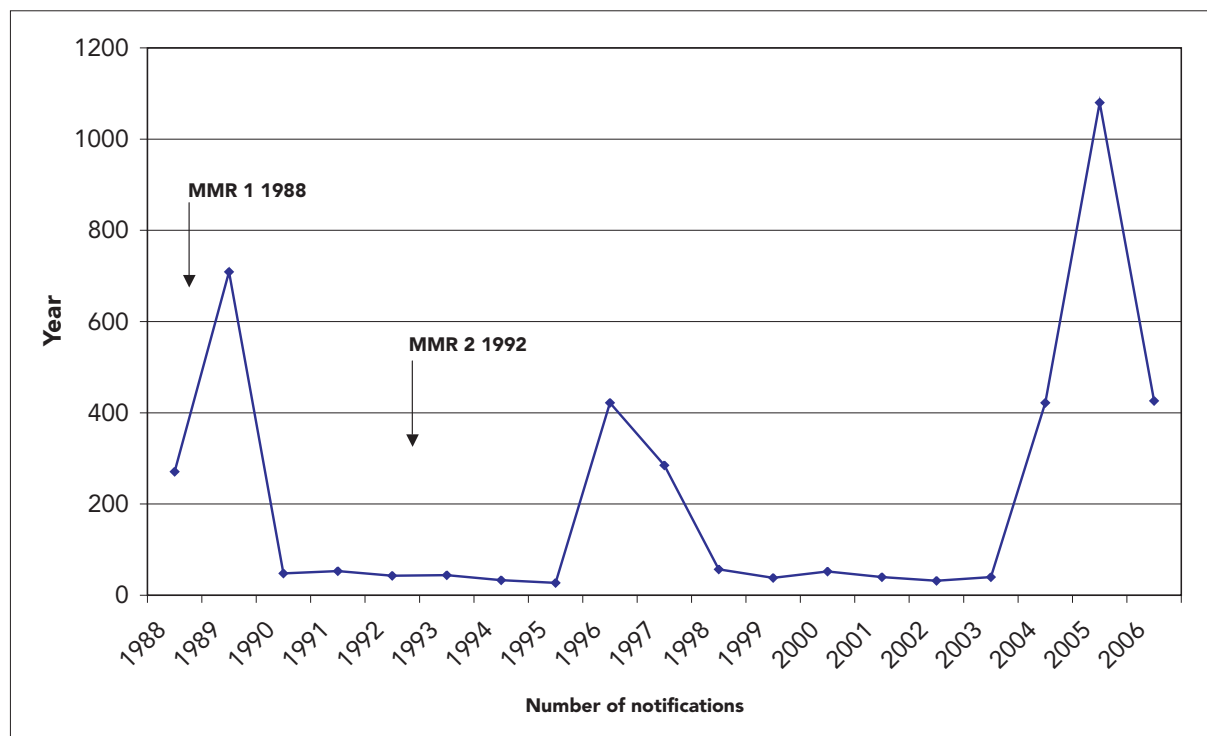


Figure 4.6: Number of cases of mumps disease notified annually in Ireland 1988-2006.

Source: Health Protection Surveillance Centre



Photo courtesy of CDC

Clinical features

The characteristic symptoms of mumps is swelling of one or more of the salivary glands most commonly the parotid gland.

Early symptoms also include headache and fever. Photohobia and neck stiffness (meningism) can also develop.

At least 30% of cases in children have no symptoms.

Most severe in adults.

The complications of mumps include

- Pancreatitis (affects 1 in 25)
- Oophoritis (ovarian inflammation) (affects 1 in 20)
- Orchitis (Testicular inflammation) (affects 25%-40% of post pubertal men)
- Meningitis (affects up to 15% of cases)
- Encephalitis (0.02-0.3% of the cases)
- Deafness (affects 1 in 20,000 patients)
- Nephritis, cardiac abnormalities and (rarely) death have been reported.

Vaccine schedule in Ireland

Mumps immunisation with the combined MMR vaccine is recommended for all children at 12 months as part of the primary childhood immunisation programme. A booster dose MMR is recommended at 4-5 years. Single vaccines are not recommended.

4.2.7 Pertussis

Epidemiology of disease and impact of vaccination

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly infectious bacterial disease involving the respiratory tract caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*, which is found in the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person. Pertussis can occur at any age. Although most reported cases occur in children less than five years, cases are reported amongst adolescents and adults every year. It is most dangerous in children under one and most severe in young infants. In Ireland, as in most European countries, the number of pertussis cases reported each year has decreased because of childhood immunisation (Figure 4.7). Cases when they do occur are usually amongst non-vaccinated or incompletely vaccinated children.

Transmission

Pertussis is spread from person-to-person by droplet infection produced by coughing or sneezing.

Incubation period

The average incubation period is 7-10 days with a range of 4-21 days.