

Kathleen Logan

From: Peter McIntyre <peter.mcintyre@otago.ac.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 June 2021 4:35 PM
To: Kathleen Logan
Cc: Emma Best; Anna Howe
Subject: Re: child vaccinations

Dear Kathleen

Anna has asked me to reply on her behalf as I am a paediatrician specialising in immunisation. There are a few issues embedded in your question.

1. would measles coverage be adversely impacted by COVID-19 vaccines for children?
2. is there any problem with administering other vaccines with COVID-19 vaccines including measles?

With the approval for use of the Pfizer Cominiraty mRNA COVID vaccine for children 12-15 years, there is no issue with measles vaccines as these are now administered at 12 months and then at 15 months together with mumps and rubella. The only possible problem would be if catch-up MMR vaccine was required for a child 12-15 years.

As a precaution, and to avoid any mistaken attribution of adverse effects post COVID-19 vaccine, a gap of 4 weeks between MMR and COVID vaccines is currently recommended. However, there is no first principles reason to think that this gap is necessary, and other countries with more extensive COVID vaccine roll out are now relaxing this requirement or have never had it, so it is likely to go.

In summary, no expected problem with coverage, especially as we are some way from any recommendation to give COVID vaccines in the second year of life and indeed this may never happen given low risk of infection and transmission in children < 5 years. As far as co-administration is concerned, there is no immunological reason not to give more than one vaccine at the same time in terms of immune response capacity - after all children cope with exposure to multiple viral infections simultaneously - the main limitation is the tolerance of vaccinators and parents for this.

I hope this has answered your questions

Kind regards

Peter McIntyre



Peter McIntyre | AO, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM
Professor

Womens and Childrens Health
University of Otago | Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtago
Tel/Waea +64 XXXXXXXX | Mobile/Waea pūkoro +64 XXXXXXXX

XX

From: Kathleen Logan <K.Logan@occ.org.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 10:37 AM

To: Anna Howe <anna.howe@canterbury.ac.nz>

Subject: child vaccinations

Tēnā koe Dr Howe

I got your name from our colleague Nikki Turner.

I have a quick question from the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

We are concerned about reduction in measles vaccinations.

Can you tell me whether multiple vaccinations can be done at a time. Eg if children are getting a Covid vaccination, can they also get a measles one? Or does that challenge those killer T cells too much to cope with mounting an effective response to both? Or does it depend on the health status of the child?

Ngā mihi

Dr Kathleen Logan (PhD)

Senior Advisor, Strategy Rights & Advice

Te Tari o te Kaikomihana mō ngā Tamariki

Office of the Children's Commissioner www.occ.org.nz

P: [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED]



----- The Office of the Children's Commissioner advocates for the best interests of all children and young people in New Zealand and looks to ensure all of their rights are respected and upheld. This email is confidential. If it is not intended for you please do not read, distribute or copy it or any attachments. Please notify the sender by return email and delete the original message and any attachments. Any views expressed in this email may be those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of the Children's Commissioner. -----