



Dear parents of [child]

We write to inform you about the **Measles Protection Act** (law for protection against measles and for strengthening of vaccine-based disease prevention, dated 10.02.2010) now enforced in the Federal Republic of Germany since 01.03.2020.

Measles is a particularly dangerous and highly contagious infectious disease for humans. With children under 5 and adults in particular, serious complications like pneumonia and brain inflammation (encephalitis) can emerge, and measles-induced subacute sclerosing panencephalitis (SSPE) always leads to death.

Vaccination against measles is recommended in Germany, by the Standing Vaccination Committee at the Robert Koch Institute (Federal Institute in the department of the Ministry for Health), and it must be performed twice – if possible at the age of between 11 and 14, as well as in the 15th and 23rd months of life. This law has the goal of improving protection against measles in schools and children's, community and medical establishments. It is now mandatory for all children from the age of one and up to provide proof of such vaccination(s), or proof of immunity acquired from contracting measles, when they are admitted in a **nursery, a children's day care facility, a refuge** or a **holiday camp**. If such proof is not submitted to those in charge of the institution, the child cannot be accepted.

Such proof must also be provided before a child can be admitted in a **school or other educational establishment** (with support in the case of very young children). If your child is not immunised against measles and has also not become ill from it yet (as evidenced by measles antibodies in blood), they will be taught nonetheless. Also, there will be no forced vaccinations. For children already admitted in a nursery, a children's day care facility, a refuge or a school or other educational establishment prior to 1 March 2020, proof of vaccination or existing immunity must be provided by 31.07.2021.

Parents who are unable to submit the required proof when registering their child in any of the kinds of institutions stated above, and parents who fail to comply with the submission deadline by 31.07.2021, must be reported to the Health Office. * They will then receive another invitation to a consultation with a doctor of the Health office. If said parents / legal guardians fail to turn up to the consultation and / or they subsequently refuse a vaccination against measles even then, then an administrative fine of up to 2,500 EUR may be imposed.

The child's parents must pay for the cost of blood tests and for the issuance of medical certificates (not including registration in the vaccination records).

Children to whom no live measles vaccine needs to be administered for medical reasons i.e. on account of special diseases (e.g. immune defects, cancer, chemotherapy), are exempt from the vaccination obligation. The existing contraindication must be evidenced at the health department in the form of a specialist medical certificate (specialist in paediatric and adolescent medicine).

The law does not provide for exemption from the vaccination obligation for religious reasons.

* For children aged between 1 and 2, the health department needs to be informed only if there has been no proof of measles vaccination provided (and the child shows no immunity to measles). For children aged over 2, the health office must be informed if it is not possible to provide proof of 2 measles vaccinations (or immunity against measles).

The full content and wording of this Act can be found in the Federal Law Gazette (version 2020, Part I, Nr. 6); everything worth knowing about it can be found under [www. Masernschutz.de](http://www.Masernschutz.de).

Yours faithfully

The staff of the Health Office