

Do not let the chance slip: Why two measles vaccine doses matter

EDITOR: Imagine your child, full of energy, chasing friends in the yard or giggling at the market. Now picture that same child burning with fever, covered in a rash, struggling to breathe. This is the reality of measles, a disease creeping back into Uganda and threatening our children. But there is hope: two simple, free doses of the Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccine can lock the door against this danger.

Skipping the second dose is like leaving your back door wide open – do not take that risk.

Measles spreads like wildfire, especially in crowded places such as schools or village markets. By June 2025, the Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunisation (UNEPI) had confirmed measles outbreaks in 66 districts across the country, and by April 2026, 20 districts had already confirmed new outbreaks. Investigations into the outbreaks revealed that a significant number of affected children had either missed their second dose of the MR vaccine or had never been vaccinated at all. The first dose, given at nine months, begins building a shield around your child. But the second dose, given at 18 months, makes that shield nearly unbreakable, protecting 99 out of every 100 children, according to UNEPI.



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