



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
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United Kingdom
gov.uk/mhra

16/11/2023

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: FOI 23/844

Thank you for your email dated 3rd November 2023 where you requested data from 2019 to the present day on MMR vaccination adverse events and fatalities in the UK (including Northern Ireland). You also asked for the number of vaccinations administered during the same time period.

When considering the spontaneous data within this response, it is important to be aware of the following points:

- A reported reaction does not necessarily mean it has been caused by the vaccine, only that the reporter had a suspicion it may have. Each year, millions of doses of routine vaccinations are given in the UK alone, and when any vaccine is administered to large numbers of people, some recipients will inevitably experience illness following vaccination. The fact that symptoms occur after use of a vaccine or medicine, and are reported via the Yellow Card scheme, does not in itself mean that they are proven to have been caused by it. Underlying or concurrent illnesses may be responsible and such events can also be coincidental.
- It is also important to note that the number of reports received via the Yellow Card scheme does not directly equate to the number of people who suffer adverse reactions and therefore cannot be used to determine the incidence of a reaction or compare the safety profile of different vaccines. ADR reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of ADRs, their ease of recognition, the extent of use of a particular medicine, and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity about a drug. Reporting tends to be highest for newly introduced medicines during the first one to two years on the market and then falls over time.

I can confirm that between 01/01/2019 and 13/11/2023, the MHRA have received 1424 UK spontaneous suspected Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) reports associated with MMR

vaccines, which includes 12 reports with a fatal outcome. There was no link between the vaccination and the patient's death identified in any of these reports.

Please find attached a Vaccine Analysis Print (VAP) which contains information on all the UK spontaneous ADR reports received through the Yellow Card scheme between 01/01/2019 and 13/11/2023. The attached guidance sheet provides you with further information on how to interpret the print.

The MHRA continuously monitors the safety of vaccines through a variety of pharmacovigilance processes including the Yellow Card scheme. As part of our signal detection processes all adverse reaction reports received by the Yellow Card scheme are individually assessed and cumulative information reviewed at regular intervals. If appropriate, regulatory action would be taken if any serious risks were confirmed.

As these data do not necessarily refer to proven side effects, you should refer to the product information which can be found here: <https://products.mhra.gov.uk/> for details on the possible side effects of the MMR vaccine.

Please note that the MHRA do not hold information on the total number of vaccinations given and therefore cannot respond to this part of your request. We recommend that you contact the UK Health Security Agency regarding this. General enquires can be sent to enquiries@ukhsa.gov.uk.

We hope the information provided is helpful, but if you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team
Safety and Surveillance
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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