

The Americas region declares that rubella has been eliminated

Eurosurveillance editorial team (eurosurveillance@ecdc.europa.eu)¹

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Citation style for this article:

Eurosurveillance editorial team. The Americas region declares that rubella has been eliminated. Euro Surveill. 2015;20(18):pii=21120. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21120>

Article published on 07 May 2015

At a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) meeting in April 2015, an international expert committee declared that the Americas region is free of the endemic transmission of rubella [1]. Rubella and congenital rubella syndrome are the third and fourth vaccine-preventable diseases to be eliminated in the Americas, after smallpox (1971) and polio (1994).

The eradication of rubella follows a 15-year initiative which involved widespread vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) in the Western Hemisphere.

When contracted in early pregnancy, rubella can cause miscarriage or birth defects.

Read more [here](#).

References

1. Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). Americas region is declared the world's first to eliminate rubella. Washington: PAHO; 2015. Available from: http://www.paho.org/us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=135%3Aamericas-region-free-of-rubella&Itemid=0&lang=en