The Americas region declares that rubella has been eliminated

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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