In order to maintain the elimination of measles and rubella, coverage >95% with two doses of MMR/MR is required. In light of this situation, countries should take advantage of every opportunity that children have contact with health facilities, for treatment or for the provision of health interventions including other vaccines, to provide MMR2. In its recent meeting, PAHO’s Technical Advisory Group on Vaccine-preventable Diseases (TAG) recommended to administer MMR2 vaccine at 15-18 months, when it can be given simultaneously with other vaccines, such as the first DPT booster. Giving MMR2 at 15-18 months of age ensures early protection of the individual and delays the accumulation of susceptible children as seen in the graph.

A mathematical model suggested that providing MMR2 at 18 months instead of 4 years of age would considerably reduce susceptibility in the 2-4 year age-group. It predicted that the proportion of susceptible children in the 0-4 age-group would fall from 25% to 20% once the new schedule has been established.

Source: Wood James G., Gidding Heather F., Heywood Anita, Macartney Kristine, McIntyre Peter B., MacIntyre C. Raina
Potential impacts of schedule changes, waning immunity and vaccine uptake on measles elimination in Australia. Vaccine. 2009 27(2). p.313

Table 1
Classification of Suspect Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS) Cases for the Period of Weeks 01-30, 2013

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<th>Rubella Confirmed 2013</th>
<th>Year/Week Last Conf. Rubella Case</th>
<th>Diagnosis of Discarded Cases 2013</th>
<th>Congenital Rubella Syndrome</th>
<th>Year/Week Last Conf. CRS Case</th>
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*Congenital Rubella Infection; (a) Provisional data;...No report received
Table No.2  
Infection Source of Measles and Rubella Confirmed Cases for the Period of Weeks 01-30, 2013

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I: Imported; IR: Import-related; CAC: Country-acquired case
U: Unknown.

Table No.3  
Measles/Rubella Suspect Cases Under Investigation for the Period of Weeks 01-30, 2013

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I: Imported; IR: Import-related; CAC: Country-acquired case
U: Unknown.

Table 4.  
Indicators of Integrated Measles/Rubella Surveillance for the Period of Weeks 01-30, 2013

<table>
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<th>Subregion and Country</th>
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<th>% Cases with Adequate Sample</th>
<th>% Blood Samples Received in Lab. ≤5 days</th>
<th>% Lab. Results &lt;4 days</th>
<th>Rate of Suspected Cases Last 52 weeks (2012/31-2013/30)</th>
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Total and Average* | 51854 | 85 | 88 | 91 | 89 | 85 | 2.8 | 0.9 |

*Weighted
... No report received