

MR Vaccination is safe, emphasize medical specialists of PGIMER and WHO

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In a recent press conference chaired by Punjab's health and family welfare minister Brahm Mohindra, medical specialists from World Health Organization (WHO) and Post Graduate Institute of Medical education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh have emphasized that MR (measles and rubella) vaccination was totally safe and people should remain away from rumours suggesting otherwise.

Specialists included PGIMER's additional professor of pediatrics department Dr. Sanjay Verma and WHO's Dr. Srinivasan. Dr. Srinivasan said that the MR vaccine was produced by Pune-based Serum Institute of India under strict quality control and was a WHO pre-qualified vaccine. He also added same vaccine was being exported to European countries and the US. He said measles is number one killer among vaccine preventable disease with more than one lakh deaths globally, including 30% happening in India. Dr Verma said measles and rubella disease was still a big challenge and cause of disability and mortality as he himself attends to several such patients in PGIMER.

Addressing media, the health minister condemned the false propaganda against the vaccination campaign on social media. Mohindra said around eight crore children across 14 states and Union Territories have been vaccinated till date with this vaccine. He added in Punjab around 14 lakh children have been administered the MR vaccine till Thursday.

Mohindra appealed to the parents to get their children aged between 9 months and 15 years vaccinated with the MR vaccine and help eliminate these two diseases.