



Vaccine Update # 492 – Influenza vaccine poll, FluMist® porcine gelatine and approved age range, typhoid and Hep A in WA

National Child Health Poll shows major gaps in parents' knowledge about influenza vaccines

New findings from the latest [National Child Health Poll](#), show significant gaps in parents' knowledge about childhood influenza vaccines. More than one-third (37%) of parents across Australia, who were surveyed from 23 April to 5 May 2026, did not know influenza vaccination is recommended for children from 6 months of age, and 43% incorrectly believed that children can get influenza from the vaccine.

Children's fear of needles is also a barrier to vaccination, with 38% of surveyed parents reporting that it makes influenza vaccination difficult. Many (83%) participants were unaware that a needle-free live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) option is now available for children. More than a quarter (29%) said that they would be more likely to vaccinate their child if they could access the intranasal vaccine.

Now is the perfect time to recommend influenza vaccination to patients, and ensure parents are aware that a needle-free alternative vaccine is freely available for children in WA aged 2–11 years, and for children aged 12–17 years through the private market.

To support clearer conversations with families, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has published a [comparison guide](#) to help providers answer parents' questions about the differences between injected and needle-free influenza vaccines. The guide includes information on recommended ages and side effects.

Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) guidance on FluMist® vaccine

A reminder that FluMist® is indicated for the prevention of influenza in children and adolescents from 24 months to less than 18 years of age.

As the TGA has identified reports of FluMist® being administered in error to children under 2 years of age, they published a [Medicine Safety Update](#) to remind providers of the indicated age range for FluMist®.

To minimise the risk of incorrect administration of FluMist®, immunisation providers are encouraged to:

- Review the [influenza chapter](#) of the [Australian Immunisation Handbook \(AIH\)](#)
- Refer to the [WA Immunisation Schedule](#) and [WA Aboriginal Immunisation Schedule](#)
- Review the [2026 WA Influenza Nasal Spray Vaccination Program for children - Provider fact sheet](#)

Adult pneumococcal schedule updates

From 1 July 2026, there will be changes to the adult pneumococcal vaccination schedule under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#).

Key changes:

- From 1 July 2026, the 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (21vPCV), Capvaxive®, will be introduced on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and the adult [immunisation schedule](#) updated.
- Capvaxive® will replace Prevenar 13® and Pneumovax 23® on the NIP for adults.
- Capvaxive® is recommended and free through the NIP (from 1 July) for:
 - Adults aged 65 years and over
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 25 years and over
 - Adults aged 18 years and over with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe disease.
- These changes lower the age at which people are recommended for pneumococcal
- vaccination, simplify the vaccine schedule, and cover more strains of the disease.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department) provides the following information on the changes to support communications:

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- [Adult pneumococcal vaccination – Program advice for health professionals](#)
- [Pneumococcal vaccination – Consumer fact sheet](#)

Further information and resources will be available on the department's website the week before the program change on 1 July 2026.

Health professionals and stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the [email list](#) to receive the latest NIP updates.

Vaccine ordering

- Capvaxive will be available to order from mid-June but cannot be administered until 1 July 2026.
- Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23 can continue to be used up to and including 30 June 2026. From 1 July only Capvaxive will be funded for adults on the NIP.
- From 1 July, please dispose of any remaining Prevenar 13 and/or Pneumovax 23 that you may still have in your fridge and record as [wastage](#).

Hepatitis A and typhoid fever in WA

In WA this year (up to end of May), there have been 13 cases each of [typhoid fever](#) and [hepatitis A](#). These diseases can cause serious illness and most people are hospitalised.

Most of the people diagnosed with these illnesses were travelling to their country of birth where typhoid fever and hepatitis A is endemic, such as India, Bangladesh and Thailand.

This is a reminder for providers to recommend vaccination for hepatitis A and typhoid fever to patients who are planning overseas travel.

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