



# Vaccine Update 462 – Influenza coverage, Antenatal Survey, resources, World Polio Day , WAVSS report, VAKS-Co

## Flu data for 2025 show suboptimal

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has released its final influenza vaccination coverage data for 2025.

The data shows that influenza vaccine uptake is suboptimal across all age cohorts:

- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years recorded the lowest vaccination rates since 2021.
- Children aged 5 to 14 years and adolescents aged 15 to 19 years both recorded slightly higher vaccination rates than in 2024, but lower than previous years.
- Adult cohorts aged 50 to 64 years, and 65 years and older, recorded the lowest vaccination rates in six years.

Current influenza disease rates remain well above typical seasonal levels for this time of year. With influenza vaccines still available, providers are encouraged to offer opportunistic vaccination and to recall and remind patients where possible.

## Invitation to Participate in Antenatal Immunisation Survey

The WA Department of Health invites you to participate in a short survey aimed at identifying potential barriers to antenatal immunisation in Western Australia. Your insights will help shape future program initiatives to improve immunisation coverage rates among pregnant women.

### Key details:

- **Purpose:** To assess barriers to antenatal immunisation in WA
- **Time commitment:** Approximately 5–10 minutes
- **Timeframe:** 21 Oct to 17 Nov
- **Confidentiality:** All responses are anonymous
- **Impact:** Your input will inform future planning and support improved immunisation outcomes

As an immunisation provider, your on-the-ground experience is invaluable. Your feedback will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges faced in antenatal immunisation and guide efforts to address them.

Access the survey here.

## New/updated immunisation resources for providers

The following resources have recently been made available. Please see:

- The Commonwealth's National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5' and supporting resources – fourth edition published
- WA Health's cold chain breach stickers – restocked (search product code IMM-014795)
- NCIRS' Recommended Sites for Childhood Vaccination poster – updated to include recent pneumococcal program changes for children
- Suite of vaccine safety resources – developed by NCIRS for healthcare providers and the public.

## World Polio Day 24 October

In recognition of World Polio Day on 24 October, it's a timely reminder to be vigilant in ensuring your patients are fully vaccinated against Polio. Please offer opportunistic vaccination regardless of reason for patient presentation.

### **Why this is important for Western Australia:**

- Australia remains polio-free since 2000, and it will require vigilance from all immunisation providers to maintain this record. Currently 91.9% of 5-year-olds in WA vaccinated

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- Outbreaks in nearby countries, such as Papua New Guinea, where only 47% of children are vaccinated and vaccine-derived poliovirus was detected in 2025.
- Increasing vaccination mis- and dis-information is impacting rates of vaccine hesitancy.
- Vaccine-derived poliovirus was detected in Melbourne's wastewater in December 2024
- For this reason, up to date vaccination of Australian children remains critical. WA Health encourages immunisation providers to discuss childhood vaccination with parents to ensure children are up to date with the childhood immunisation schedule.

## Resources

- For healthcare professionals | Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation | SKAI

## 2024 WAVSS annual report published online

The 2024 WAVSS annual report is now available on the WA Department of Health website.

During 2024, more than 2.1 million vaccinations were administered in WA and 670 individual adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) were reported.

The Western Australia Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system monitors vaccine safety in WA and accepts reports of suspected AEFI from health care providers, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the public, as well as reports flagged through active surveillance systems.

The 2024 WAVSS Annual Report reports on adverse events ranging from minor ailments such as a sore arm, to serious medical events such as anaphylaxis.

AEFI are a notifiable condition in WA and reports of AEFI should be submitted to WAVSS via <https://www.safevac.org.au/>.

## Vaccine Advocacy, Knowledge, and Support through collaboration (VAKS-Co) key projects web page launched

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[health.wa.gov.au](https://health.wa.gov.au)

Vaccination Advocacy, Knowledge, and Support through Collaboration (VAKS-Co) is a collaboration between the Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS) and Department of Health.

The collaboration aims to provide a coordinated approach to improving immunisation activities provided by WA Health in the Perth metropolitan area for all ages.

For a list of current key projects, please visit  
[https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U\\_Z/VAKS-Co](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/VAKS-Co)

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