



Vaccine Update 463 - Adolescent Immunisation, NCIRS webinar, measles resources, handbook updates, vaccination survey

Declining adolescent immunisation rates

In recent years, adolescent vaccination coverage rates have declined. This exposes adolescents to risks and complications associated with vaccine-preventable diseases, including human papillomavirus (HPV), pertussis, and meningococcal disease.

Adolescents are eligible to receive one dose of each of the following National Immunisation Program (NIP)-funded vaccines:

- HPV and dTpa (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) in year 7
- MenACWY in year 10.

In WA, adolescent vaccines are primarily delivered via the School-based Immunisation Program. If vaccination at school has been missed, young people remain eligible for catch-up until the age of 20 for dTpa and MenACWY, and 26 for HPV.

WA Health is urging all immunisation providers to:

- review immunisation records and use reminder or recall systems for patients who may be overdue for their age-appropriate vaccines
- [discuss adolescent immunisation](#) with teens and their parents
- offer opportunistic vaccination to eligible individuals.

Upcoming webinar: Protecting adolescents through immunisation - insights, drivers and opportunities for action

To shed light on the national decline in adolescent immunisation, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) is hosting a webinar, covering:

- current trends in adolescent vaccination coverage in Australia
- the adolescent immunisation schedule
- the latest Sharing Knowledge About Immunisation (SKAI) research into the barriers and drivers of adolescent vaccination
- practical strategies to support vaccine confidence and uptake among teenagers.
- SKAI Adolescent – an information suite on designed to support families to make informed decisions about adolescent immunisation.

Date: Nov 5, 2025

Time: 04:00 PM

Register now to receive the link straight to your inbox once it's available. If you can't attend on the date, the webinar will be recorded and made available on the NCIRS website.

Measles resources

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) has updated its measles vaccination guide for immunisation providers to align with state- and territory-funded measles catch-up vaccination programs introduced across Australia this year.

The updated measles vaccination clinical decision support tool joins a suite of measles immunisation resources, including measles FAQs and the Australian Immunisation Handbook measles chapter.

Australian immunisation experts continue to urge the community to prioritise measles vaccination in the wake of surging measles cases globally and declining coverage in Australia.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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Updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook

Minor changes were made this week to two Australian Immunisation Handbook chapters, including:

- Administration of vaccines chapter has been amended to reflect recent changes in clinical practice and includes:
 - new guidance on the angle of needle insertion and position of bevel while entering a bung to reduce the risk of coring
 - updates to administration route lists for varicella vaccines
 - updates to intradermal administration route to align with the hepatitis B chapter.
- Catch-up vaccination resources includes updated tables to clarify the pneumococcal schedule for all children. The update also covers updates to catch up tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania or Victoria who were born before 1 March 2025.

Non-scheduled or additional vaccine administration survey

The Melbourne Vaccine Education Centre has developed a survey to better understand experiences and practices around the administration of non-scheduled or additional vaccines. Help inform immunisation-related education by completing this brief survey (up to 5 minutes).

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