



# Vaccine Update #486 – Free influenza vaccines for all Western Australians throughout May and June 2026 and 2026 WA RSV Vulnerable Older Adult Vaccination Program

## Key messages

- The 2026 Free Influenza Vaccine Program enables all people in Western Australia to receive a free influenza vaccine from 1 May to 30 June 2026, including interstate and international visitors and those without a Medicare card.
- New respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination programs for older adults are being launched in May: the National Immunisation Program (NIP) RSV vaccination program for older Australians and the WA RSV Vulnerable Older Adult Vaccination Program, which expands the availability of Arexvy for vulnerable older Western Australians.
- Arexvy can be co-administered with other vaccines, including influenza, COVID, and other scheduled vaccines.
- As an immunisation provider, you are a trusted source of information and often, the primary influence in your patient's decision making. Please recommend influenza and/or RSV immunisations to protect your patients from vaccine-preventable illness this winter.
- Immunisation providers are required to [report](#) all vaccinations administered to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).
- The 2026 WA Health Influenza Update recording is available on [Immunisation events](#).

## 2026 Free Influenza Vaccination Program

- From 1 May to 30 June 2026, immunisation providers can administer state-funded influenza vaccines to people aged 12 to 64 years who are not otherwise eligible for an influenza vaccine under the NIP or other state-funded vaccine.
- The program is open to all immunisation service providers.
- In 2026, Fluzone is the influenza vaccine available to providers participating in the Program and can be ordered via [Onelink](#) for account holders.
- Fluzone vaccines ordered for this Program should not be administered to NIP-eligible people, and NIP vaccines should not be used for this Program.
- A summary of government-funded flu vaccines by group is provided here: [Influenza immunisation](#).
- See [Free influenza vaccine program May and June 2026](#) for further details.

## RSV vaccination for older adults

- A single dose of RSV vaccine can prevent serious RSV infection and hospitalisation in older adults.
- Aboriginal people and people with certain medical conditions are at greater risk of severe RSV disease.
- Adults aged  $\geq 60$  years who are vaccinated against RSV are 83 per cent less likely to have RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease and 94 per cent less likely to develop severe RSV-associated lower respiratory tract disease, as outlined in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

## Who is eligible for free RSV vaccines?

- All persons 75 years of age and older, and Aboriginal people from 60 years of age are eligible under the NIP program.
- As part of the 2026 WA RSV Vulnerable Older Adult Vaccination Program, persons in residential aged care homes, people receiving Commonwealth Support at Home, other congregate living settings, and people experiencing homelessness are eligible. See [here](#) for a full list of funded cohorts.

Note: Arexvy is only registered for adults aged  $\geq 60$  years, and adults 50–59 years who are at increased risk for RSV disease and is not registered for use in pregnant women or children.

## When can you order and administer vaccines?

- NIP and state-funded Arexvy vaccines will be available to order from the week commencing 4 May through the [Onelink](#) portal, with both programs officially starting on 15 May. Please be sure to order Arexvy for the correct cohort (i.e. NIP vs State-funded).
- RSV vaccine may be given at any time of the year, but, where possible, should be offered before the start of the RSV season.
- Arexvy can be administered to eligible patients as soon as the vaccine is available. All Arexvy orders should be delivered to providers by mid-May.

## Vaccine storage and cold chain

- Providers should review their storage capacity for winter illness vaccines and determine if additional storage needs to be arranged. Weekly ordering is available during this period to help providers manage clinics and storage.
- Vaccines must be stored in accordance with the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'](#), please store products in their original packaging until the time of use.

## 2026 WA Community Pharmacy Immunisation Payment Program (CPIPP)

- CPIPP will provide payments to community pharmacies in WA for the administration of government-funded influenza and RSV vaccines that are not covered under the [National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy \(NIPVIP\)](#).
- In 2026, the CPIPP is being coordinated by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, WA Branch, please visit <https://www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/wa/cpip> for further information and queries.

## Corporate vaccination service providers payment program

- Corporate vaccination service (CVS) providers that are registered for the Program can claim a payment per state-funded influenza vaccine (Fluzone) administered to eligible persons as part of the 2026 Free Influenza Program.

Further information can be found here: [Free influenza vaccine program May and June 2026](#)

## Keep up to date with current information

For general information on influenza, RSV and immunisation:

- [Influenza Immunisation \(health.wa.gov.au\)](#)
- Consumer information available at [Influenza \(flu\) immunisation \(healthywa.wa.gov.au\)](#).
- [WA Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Immunisation Programs](#)
- Immunisation education including influenza and RSV available here: [Immunisation education](#)
- This communication should be read in conjunction with information available in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) and the [WA Immunisation Schedule](#).

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

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