

# Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination Update for GPs and Pharmacists

Please distribute to all staff in your facility

1. **Offer** JE vaccine to patients who are eligible for vaccination. Ensure patients are appropriately risk assessed for vaccine type (Imojev is a live attenuated vaccine. Patients contraindicated for live vaccination, including pregnant women, and people with immunocompromising conditions should be offered JEspect). More information on types of vaccination can be found in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#). For eligibility criteria see below or visit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/JEvaccine>.
2. **Advise** patients on the importance of routine mosquito bite prevention to prevent JE and other mosquito-borne diseases, including Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus infections. Spray up, cover up, screen up, and clean up!

## Current vaccine recommendations in NSW:

In NSW, a free Japanese encephalitis virus vaccination is available for people aged 2 months or older who live or routinely work in any of the [eligible Local Government Areas \(LGAs\) of high JEV concern](#) AND:

- spend significant time outdoors (four hours per day), for unavoidable work, recreation, education, or other essential activities, OR
- are living in temporary or flood-damaged accommodation (for example camps, tents, dwellings exposed to the external environment) that place them at increased risk of exposure to mosquitoes, OR
- are engaged in the prolonged outdoor recovery efforts (clean up) of stagnant waters following floods.

The State Vaccine Centre will be accepting vaccine orders until midday **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec** to be dispatched for delivery Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. **Routine deliveries will recommence on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.**

## Vaccination eligibility for people supporting flood recovery:

Mosquito experts indicate that floods are unlikely to increase the risk of JEV and other mosquito-borne disease in the immediate days following flooding events. However, stagnant water poses a risk to those engaged in prolonged, outdoor clean-up activities due to mosquito populations breeding in these environments.

This may include emergency services personnel who undertake long-term (greater than 28 days) or repeated deployments to assist with outdoor recover efforts in high-risk LGAs. The individual circumstances may vary. Emergency services personnel should speak to their commander / organisation about whether their roles meet the criteria.

## Mosquito bite prevention information and resources:

There are a lot of mosquitos about, and these mosquitos can carry a range of viruses. Everyone plays a role in taking the steps to protect against mosquito bites this summer – spray up (use repellent), cover up (wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants), screen up (cover windows and doors with insect screens) and clean up (remove any containers that hold water where mosquitoes may breed).

For further information on mosquito bite prevention: [Mosquito-borne disease resources - Mosquito borne diseases \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).

**For more information contact your local public health unit on 1300 066 055**

Yours sincerely



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## Who can be vaccinated against Japanese Encephalitis virus in NSW?

Japanese Encephalitis vaccine is recommended and free for people at most risk of Japanese Encephalitis virus infection in NSW. This includes two groups:

### 1. People at risk because of where they live (or routinely work) and the activities they do

People aged 2 months or older who live or routinely work-in any of the high risk Local Government Areas (Right: Box 1) **AND**:

- Spend significant time outdoors (four hours per day), for work, recreation, education, or other essential activities, **OR**
- Are living in accommodation (e.g. camps, tents, dwellings exposed to the external environment) that place them at increased risk of exposure to mosquitoes, **OR**
- Are engaged in the prolonged outdoor recovery efforts (clean up) of stagnant waters following floods

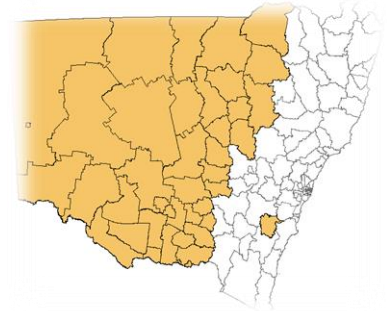
### 2. People at risk because of their work (or work-related accommodation)

People aged 2 months or older who live in any part of NSW **AND**:

- work, live, or are visiting a:
  - piggery, including farm workers and their families (including children aged 2 months and older) living at the piggery, pig transport workers, veterinarians (including veterinary students and nurses) and others involved in the care of pigs.
  - pork abattoir or pork rendering plant, **OR**
- work directly with mosquitoes through their surveillance (field or laboratory based) or control and management, and indirectly through management of vertebrate mosquito-borne disease surveillance systems (e.g. sentinel animals) such as:
  - environmental health officers and workers (urban and remote)
  - entomologists, **OR**
- all diagnostic and research laboratory workers who may be exposed to the virus, such as people working with JEV cultures or mosquitoes with the potential to transmit JEV; as per the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

### Box 1. LGAs of high JEV risk

Albury, Balranald, Berrigan, Bland, Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Carrathool, Central Darling, Cobar, Coolamon, Coonamble, Dubbo Regional, Edward River, Federation, Forbes, Gilgandra, Goulburn Mulwaree, Greater Hume, Griffith, Hay, Junee, Lachlan, Leeton, Lockhart, Moree Plains, Murray River, Murrumbidgee, Narrabri, Narrandera, Narromine, Temora, Parkes, Unincorporated Far West Area, Wagga Wagga, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle, Weddin, Wentworth



## How can I order vaccines?

Vaccine doses can be ordered through the State Vaccine Centre: <https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/>

For larger orders that exceed current order restrictions, please contact the local public health unit on **1300 066 055** to arrange additional doses (supply dependent). For more information on how to register with the State Vaccine Centre visit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/guidance-for-pharmacists-NIP-vaccines.aspx>

## What are the cost considerations?

Japanese encephalitis vaccines being provided through the State Vaccine Centre to pharmacists and GPs free of charge. However, patients have been advised that some providers may charge an administration or consultation fee. In order to ensure equitable access to vaccination for those who meet the eligibility criteria, NSW Health requests that administration or consultation fees that are charged are reasonable, and in line with fees charged for administration of other similar vaccines and consider accessibility to patients.

## What are the training requirements for pharmacists?

For the purposes of supply and administration of any Japanese encephalitis vaccine, a pharmacist immuniser, in addition to other requirements as outlined in the [NSW Pharmacist Vaccination Standards](#) must also successfully complete a course hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia or the Pharmacy Guild of Australia:

- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Training: [Training Plan: Japanese encephalitis - A learning resource for immunisation providers \(psa.org.au\)](#)
- Pharmacy Guild of Australia Training: [GuildEd - Japanese Encephalitis Vaccination Training Module](#)