



# Vaccine Update 494 – FluMist® program eligibility expanded, FluMist® resource update for guidance on porcine gelatine, Adult pneumococcal schedule updates, immunisation education updates

## WA FluMist® program eligibility expanded

- The 2026 WA Health Nasal Spray Influenza Vaccine Program (FluMist®) will conclude 7 August 2026. To maximise vaccination opportunities before the program ends, eligibility has been expanded to all children and adolescents aged between 2 to 17 years in Western Australia (WA).
- This change supports increased uptake and ensures more children and adolescents benefit from the needle-free influenza vaccination option during the final weeks of the program.

### **Providers are encouraged to:**

- review their current FluMist® inventory, noting the short expiration dates and place additional orders to meet patient demand, if required. There are different product batches distributed to providers that expire on 10 July, 16 July, and 7 August 2026

- prioritise vaccinations ahead of 7 August, as the program will not be extended due to the shelf life of product
- promote FluMist® to families who may prefer a non-injectable vaccine

For assistance with ordering, please contact [vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au).

WA Health data shows that three quarters of the children aged 2 to 11 years who have received an influenza vaccine this season, have chosen FluMist® over the intramuscular vaccine. Providers are encouraged to review appointment availability, recall systems, and patient communications to support strong uptake before the program concludes.

## FluMist® resource update – porcine gelatine

WA Health webpages and resources have been updated to include guidance on the porcine gelatine ingredient in FluMist®, the nasal spray influenza vaccine available for children and adolescents aged 2 to 17 years.

Please review the [updated information](#), which includes guidance on faith related concerns regarding the porcine gelatine content in FluMist®, and ensure this is discussed with all parents and carers when offering or administering FluMist®.

## Adult pneumococcal schedule updates

From 1 July 2026, there are 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 NIP and the adult [immunisation schedule](#) has been updated.
- Capvaxive® will replace Prevenar 13® and Pneumovax 23® on the NIP for adults.
- From 1 July, Capvaxive® is recommended and free through the NIP 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 Commonwealth Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) has developed the following information on the changes to support communications:

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



Health professionals and stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the NIP updates email list to receive the latest information.

### **Vaccine ordering**

- Capvaxive® is now available to order for administration from 1 July 2026.
- Prevenar 13® and Pneumovax 23® should not be used after 30 June 2026. From 1 July only Capvaxive® will be funded for adults on the NIP.
- From 1 July, all providers should dispose of any remaining Prevenar 13® and/or Pneumovax 23® that you may still have in your fridge and record through the wastage form.

## **Immunisation education opportunities**

For immunisation providers, staying informed and up-to-date on new research and innovations, current immunisation programs, the latest practices, and guidelines is essential to delivering safe and effective care.

Whether you're looking for information about your education requirements, online learning, immunisation event recordings and presentations, the WA Health Immunisation Education webpage is your go-to resource.

### **Why check in regularly?**

- New events are added throughout the year.
- Topics cover clinical updates, vaccine safety, cold chain management, and more.
- Opportunities for networking and peer learning.

We encourage all providers to bookmark the page to ensure you don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

**Your commitment to ongoing immunisation education helps keep our communities safe and healthy.**

