Vaccine Update- 515- New resources for safe handling of vaccines, travel vaccination webinar and new dengue chapter being developed for the Australian Immunisation Handbook

18/11/2026

New resources to support safe handling of privately supplied vaccines

The WA Department of Health has released a suite of resources to support consumers, prescribers and pharmacists involved in the supply and administration of privately prescribed vaccines.

The resources were developed in collaboration with immunisation stakeholders following feedback to strengthen consumer education and promote consistent messaging across the vaccination journey.

The resources highlight the following key messages for consumers:

- Collect vaccines as close as practicable to the vaccination appointment.
- Travel directly to the appointment after collecting the vaccines.
- Hand the vaccines to clinic reception staff immediately upon arrival.
- Remember that insulated vaccine transport bags are for short-term transport support only and are not a substitute for refrigeration.

Digital resources

1. Private vaccine prescription – simple steps to stay protected provides information about vaccine transport requirements and appointment planning. For pharmacists to provide to consumers when a private vaccine is prescribed.

2. Five quick checks for pharmacies distributing private vaccines. A tool to prompt and support pharmacy staff when discussing vaccine collection and transport with consumers. For use in staff rooms, staff dispensing areas, or as training material.

These digital resources can be found on the Pharmacist immunisation in Western Australia page.

Hard copy resource

1. Private vaccine handling stickers are available for attaching to vaccine transport packaging (silver foil bags) to provide key visual reminders about vaccine transport and handling. Stickers can be ordered from DoH Online Ordering System

Additional cold chain resources and information for WA immunisation providers can be found on the cold chain management page.

What's new in travel vaccination - dengue, rabies and measles webinar by the National Centre of Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS)

Travel vaccination recommendations continue to evolve as new vaccines become available and disease risks change around the world. Join this informative webinar to explore the latest developments in travel immunisation, with a focus on dengue, rabies and measles.

Date: Tuesday 1 December 2026 Time: 9:00- 10:00am AWST

Expert presenters will discuss:

- Australia's first dengue vaccine, including recommendations for use, effectiveness and safety considerations.
- updates to rabies post-exposure vaccination guidance
- counterfeit rabies vaccines administered overseas and considerations for travellers
- increasing measles activity in Australia and globally
- practical case studies to support administering travel vaccines

The webinar will conclude with a live Q&A panel, providing an opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss real-world immunisation scenarios with experts in the field.

Register here to watch live and to receive access to the recording.

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

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New dengue chapter being developed for the Australian Immunisation Handbook

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is developing a new chapter on dengue for the Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIH) following the introduction of Australia's first dengue vaccine, Qdenga®. Dengue is a statutory notifiable disease.

The chapter will provide comprehensive clinical guidance on dengue, vaccine recommendations, eligibility, administration considerations and travel health advice. Until the chapter is published, ATAGI advises referring to its recent Statement on the Clinical use of the Dengue vaccine Qdenga for Australians for current recommendations and clinical guidance.

As dengue activity continues to increase globally, particularly across popular travel destinations in Asia, healthcare providers should remain up to date with evolving advice to support informed discussions with travellers about dengue prevention and vaccination.

Qdenga is available through private prescription for people aged four years and older.

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