



# Free Influenza Vaccination Program June 2022

## Frequently asked questions

### **Who can access a free influenza vaccination in June?**

All Western Australians over the age of six months can access a free influenza vaccination from 1 to 30 June this year. Some priority groups are eligible for free influenza vaccination every year for the whole influenza season.

### **Are there any changes under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)?**

There are no changes for people already eligible for a free influenza vaccine under the NIP. People eligible under the NIP should continue to access the influenza vaccine.

View the WA Immunisation Schedule at:

[https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/\\_media/Files/Corporate/general-documents/Immunisation/PDF/WA-Immunisation-Schedule.pdf](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general-documents/Immunisation/PDF/WA-Immunisation-Schedule.pdf)

### **Can I receive my COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as my influenza vaccine?**

Yes.

### **Do I have to be a WA resident to qualify to receive a free influenza vaccine?**

No, this program is available to everyone in WA between 1 and 30 June.

### **Are non-Medicare card holders able to access a free influenza vaccine?**

Yes, everyone over the age of six months can access a free influenza vaccination, including those who do not have a Medicare card.

### **I have already received an influenza vaccination prior to 1 June. Can I be reimbursed for the out-of-pocket cost?**

No. While the State government is unable to provide financial reimbursement to anyone who paid for their influenza vaccination before 1 June and after 30 June, please know that your efforts to ensure yourself, your family and others around you are protected from influenza are recognised, and we thank you for playing your part this winter.

## Where can I get a free influenza vaccination?

Free vaccinations are available through participating general practices and community pharmacies. Ask your local GP and pharmacy if they are part of the program.

COVID-19 vaccination community clinics are also offering free influenza vaccination to persons aged 5 years and above. For clinic locations and times, please visit <https://rollup.wa.gov.au>

## Does the influenza vaccine have any side effects?

Some people experience common reactions such as pain, redness and swelling where the injection was given. It is also common to get a low fever and muscle aches. Any medications, including the influenza vaccine can have serious side effects, such as a severe allergic reaction. However, the risk of this is extremely small.

Learn more about the possible side effects of vaccination at:  
[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Possible-side-effects-of-vaccination](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Possible-side-effects-of-vaccination)

Please seek medical advice if symptoms continue or get worse.

## Should I report any side effects?

You do not need to report common/minor reactions that are mild and short lasting. You can read more about the possible side effects of vaccination at  
[https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Possible-side-effects-of-vaccination](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Possible-side-effects-of-vaccination)

Healthcare providers should report:

- any significant (or rare and unexpected) AEFIs in both children and adults
- any vaccine reaction that requires assessment by a doctor or nurse
- any vaccine reaction that has affected a family's confidence in future immunisation.

You can report adverse events even if you are not sure whether the vaccine caused the event.

The Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance System (WAVSS) is the central reporting service in WA for any significant adverse events following immunisation.

Healthcare providers and members of the public can report a possible adverse reaction to a vaccine:

- visit <https://wavss.health.wa.gov.au>  
or
- phone WAVSS on (08) 9321 1312 (8.30am to 4.30pm).

## Who can I speak to if I have queries about this Program?

Please call 13 COVID (13 26843) for program queries

For further information, please email [Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Immunisation@health.wa.gov.au) or visit <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/influenzavaccine>

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