



Vaccine Update 499- 2026 WA Influenza Nasal Spray Vaccination Program concluding on Friday, Free Influenza Vaccine Program concluded, Expression of Interest (EOI) Health Education and Services Australia (HESA) accredited immunisation course

05/08/2026

2026 WA Influenza Nasal Spray Vaccination Program concluding 7 August

This program has provided a free influenza nasal spray vaccine (FluMist®) for eligible children and adolescents aged 2 to 17 years in Western Australia (WA). A reminder that **the final batch of FluMist doses expire after 7 August 2026**.

Immunisation providers with remaining FluMist stock are encouraged to review immunisation records of all patients seen up until 7 August (inclusive) and offer FluMist to those who are [eligible](#) and [indicated](#). As trusted and influential sources of immunisation information, your recommendation can make a meaningful difference in improving vaccine uptake and ensuring available doses are used before they expire.

From 8 August, immunisation providers are asked to refrain from using FluMist and to report any remaining expired doses on the [WA Health wastage incident reporting](#) page. Dispose of any expired vaccines according to your usual processes.

Free Influenza Vaccine Program concluded 31 July

A reminder that the **Free Influenza Vaccine Program (the Program)** ended on **31 July 2026**. The Program commenced 1 May 2026, providing free influenza vaccines for all individuals aged 12 to less than 65 years who are not [eligible](#) for a free influenza vaccine through the National Immunisation Program (NIP). The [Western Australian Immunisation Schedule](#) has been updated to reflect that this program has now concluded.

As of 26 July, 393,457 people aged 12 to less than 65 years were vaccinated, compared to 394,973 at the same time last year. This represents a coverage rate of 18.5% among eligible people aged 12 to less than 65 years, a decrease of 0.5 percentage points compared to the same time last year. Uptake was highest in May following Program rollout, with the highest proportion of free influenza vaccines administered to the eligible cohort in community pharmacies (51.5%), followed by general practices (28.0%).

Now that the Free Influenza Vaccine Program has concluded, the following select cohorts continue to remain eligible for free inactivated influenza vaccines in WA:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- people aged 65 years or over
- people aged 6 months or over who have medical conditions that mean they have a higher risk of getting serious disease
- primary school-aged children
- those aged 12 to less than 65 years who are experiencing homelessness or reside in a congregate living setting.

Immunisation providers with remaining Fluzone stock from the Free Influenza Vaccine Program can continue to use stock for people aged 12 to less than 65 years. However, payment by WA Department of Health for vaccines administered by pharmacists or corporate vaccination service providers to this cohort after 31 July 2026 will **not** be processed. As such, it is up to the immunisation provider as to whether patients are charged for the administration, as long as the patient is not charged for the state-funded vaccine.

Thank you for your support implementing this program to the WA community. [Subscribe](#) to the WA Department of Health [VirusWAtch](#) newsletter to track influenza notification rates.

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

© Department of Health 2026

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.

Expression of Interest for Health Education and Systems Australia accredited immunisation course – ‘Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program’

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) is supporting nurses in general practice, aged care and Aboriginal health to complete the ‘[Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program](#)’ Health Education Services Australia (HESA) accredited training program.

The Program aims to equip health professionals with knowledge and skills to competently deliver a high quality and safe immunisation service by:

- introducing the learner to immunisation as a public health measure in Australia and globally
- explaining immunology principles of vaccination and vaccine types and components
- discussing the epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases and explaining the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#) in Australia
- explaining the legislation and ethics with immunisation practice
- providing the comprehensive requirements to provide a safe and effective immunisation service.

The Program is divided into four modules, with the information provided under sub-headings. The modules must be completed in sequential order.

The Program is self-paced but must be completed within a period of **20 weeks** from the date of registration.

An [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) is now open to registered nurses, enrolled nurses, nurse practitioners and Aboriginal Health Practitioners who require training on immunisation.

To apply, registered and enrolled nurses and Aboriginal Health Practitioners must be:

- registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and
- currently employed in residential aged care homes (RACHs) or relevant health setting (General Practice or Aboriginal Medical Service).

The EOI closing date is 31 August 2026

For all queries, email the WAPHA Immunisation team at immunisation@wapha.org.au

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

© Department of Health 2026

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.