



Vaccine Update 502 - webinar on COVID-19 vaccine transition to the National Immunisation Program, maternal respiratory syncytial virus vaccine reduces infant hospitalisations, Beyfortus doses expiring

26/08/2026

Webinar on COVID-19 vaccine transition to the National Immunisation Program

From October 1 2026, COVID-19 vaccines will be funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). This replaces the stand-alone National COVID-19 Vaccine Program (NCVP).

The [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance \(NCIRS\)](#) is hosting a practical webinar on Thursday 24 September 2026 from 10am-11.30am (AWST) exploring what the transition to the NIP means for immunisation providers.

The webinar will cover:

- current burden of COVID-19 disease in Australia
- latest evidence on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and safety
- updated COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, the reasons for these changes and eligibility for a funded dose
- implications of the transition to the NIP for providers and patients
- practical approaches to discussing vaccination recommendations with patients

[Registration](#) is open now. Those who can't attend while the webinar is live are encouraged to register to receive a link to the recorded webinar.

Impact of maternal respiratory syncytial virus vaccine

A maternal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine is [recommended](#) and available to all pregnant women from 28 weeks of pregnancy, during every pregnancy.

[Findings](#) from the STREETON (Study of Real-world vaccine Effectiveness of maternal RSVpreF vaccination against respiratory syncytial virus in hospitalised infants in Australia) study published on 19 August 2026 by [The Kids Institute Australia](#) confirmed RSV vaccination [during pregnancy](#) offers high and sustained protection against hospitalisation and severe forms of respiratory disease caused by RSV in infants from birth until six months of age. This study found RSV vaccination during pregnancy is:

- 80.8 per cent effective at reducing RSV-related hospitalisations
- 77.8 per cent effective at reducing hospitalisations from RSV-related lower respiratory tract disease
- 80.4 per cent effective at reducing hospitalisations for severe RSV-related lower respiratory tract disease.

Currently, RSV immunisation (Beyfortus) is also available until 30 September (or if in Kimberley and Pilbara regions, year-round) to the following children:

- infants born between 1 April and 30 September 2026 if:
 - they have a medical risk condition
 - their mother was immunosuppressed while pregnant
 - their mother received Abrysvo less than 2 weeks prior to delivery, or was not vaccinated in pregnancy
- Aboriginal children and/or children with a medical risk condition born after 1 October 2024 and in their second RSV season, regardless of a mother's Abrysvo vaccination status.

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.

Current Beyfortus doses expiring Monday 31 August 2026

The information below outlines important guidance for immunisation providers regarding RSV immunisation (Beyfortus) for infants.

Two batches of Beyfortus will expire at 11:59 PM on Monday 31 August 2026. The affected batches are:

- AZ240105 (50ml/L)
- AZ240106 (100ml/L)

Immunisation providers, please continue to use Beyfortus with the aforementioned batch numbers until the end of the day on 31 August. From Tuesday 1 September, please dispose of any remaining doses according to your usual medicines disposal policy. Don't forget to report any wastage using the [Wastage Reporting Form](#).

Beyfortus with expiry in June 2028 can now be [ordered from Onelink](#). Please order what you need and do not dispose of any immunisation until after it expires.

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.