

# Extended NSW Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Eligibility for travellers

Information for vaccination providers in NSW - please distribute to all staff in your facility



## Key messages

1. The criteria for free Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccine for people visiting high-risk areas for outdoor recreation and travel has been extended **until the 31 July 2026**.
2. The criteria for free Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccine for people who live or work in high-risk areas will continue after this date.
3. Availability of JEspect in Australia is highly constrained. A small quantity will be available to order in 4-6 weeks. Imojev should be administered as the preferred vaccine where possible. JEspect should only be given to people who are contraindicated to receive Imojev.

## Travellers to high-risk areas for outdoor recreation now able to get JEV vaccine until 31 July 2026

- NSW Health has extended JEV vaccine eligibility until 31 July 2026 for people aged 2 months or older who are travelling to JEV high-risk areas for outdoor recreational activities, such as camping, caravanning, boating and fishing.
- There are nearly 70 Local Government Areas (LGAs) included in the high-risk areas.

## People who live or work in high-risk areas will continue to be recommended to receive vaccines beyond this date

- People who live or work in any of the high-risk areas or people who work in occupations at increased risk of JEV will continue to be eligible and recommended to receive vaccines beyond 31 July.
- While risk of JEV is currently low in the cooler temperatures, it is important for people who are eligible for vaccine to be aware of JEV risk and be offered appropriate vaccination as soon as possible.
- The full eligibility criteria and list of LGAs are available on the NSW Health JEV Vaccination webpage: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

## There is constrained supply of JEspect vaccine stock

- There is currently no available stock of JEspect (sometimes branded as Ixiaro) to order from the State Vaccine Centre. There is ample supply of Imojev vaccine stock at the State Vaccine Centre.
- Vaccine providers are strongly recommended to reserve JEspect only for people who cannot receive live vaccines such as people who are immunocompromised, pregnant, or infants aged 2 months to under 9 months. For more information on immunocompromising conditions or therapies which are a contraindication to receive live vaccines, refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- Due to global constraints, supply of JEspect is limited. NSW has ordered additional JEspect supply which is expected in 4-6 weeks. To ensure stock distribution is equitable, once stock is available, vaccine providers will be able to place orders for JEspect by calling your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055. Please confirm patients are contraindicated to receive Imojev prior to ordering.
- Patients who have had one dose of JEspect but are not contraindicated to receive Imojev should be offered Imojev instead as the second vaccine dose.
- People who are recommended to receive JEV vaccines and cannot receive Imojev can purchase JEspect on the private market should they wish to be vaccinated against JEV during this period of constrained supply.

## Recommend personal protective measures to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease

- JEV vaccination does not protect against other mosquito-borne diseases, so even after vaccination, make sure to encourage using mosquito repellent, wearing long clothing, and reducing exposure at peak mosquito times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keira Glasgow'.

Keira Glasgow  
Director, One Health Branch, Health Protection NSW  
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