

# Expanded NSW Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Eligibility

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



## Key messages

1. **Offer and recommend a free Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) vaccine** to people who are eligible to receive a vaccine (see expanded eligibility below). There have been detections and cases of JEV in NSW recently.
2. Eligibility has been expanded until the start of winter to include anyone in NSW who plans to **visit any** high-risk region for **outdoor recreational activities**, such as camping, caravanning, boating, hunting, and fishing. Have a low threshold for recommending vaccination at this time.
3. Eligibility has also been expanded to an additional **8 LGAs: Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Byron, Oberon, Tweed, Walcha, and Yass Valley**. There are now 68 LGAs listed as high risk for JEV in regional NSW

## Situation

- JEV is now endemic in areas west of the Great Dividing Range and north-east NSW.
- Two people have acquired JEV in NSW this mosquito season, and there have been ongoing detections of JEV in animals.
- It is important for people travelling to high risk LGAs for outdoor recreation to be aware of JEV risk and be offered vaccination as soon as possible prior to travel to affected areas.
- Imojev vaccine stock is currently available directly from the State Vaccine Centre. JEspect is reserved for people who cannot receive Imojev and can be ordered by contacting your Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.
- The eligibility criteria may be reviewed based on available stock and risk assessment, and some current eligibility may not be retained in the long-term. People who are currently eligible are recommended to receive the free vaccine now.

## Expanded eligibility to those who undertake outdoor recreational activities

- Until the start of winter, eligibility has been expanded to include anyone in NSW who plans to visit any of the defined high-risk LGAs for outdoor recreational activities, such as camping, caravanning, boating, hunting, and fishing.
- Vaccine providers should have a low threshold for recommendation of vaccine for people who are planning these activities this mosquito season. Six out of seven people who acquired JEV in NSW across the two most recent mosquito seasons (2024-26) reported some form of outdoor recreation (e.g. camping, caravanning, fishing, boating), and these activities are a strong indicator of risk.

## There are 68 high-risk LGAs in NSW

- Eight LGAs have been added to the list of high-risk areas for JEV in NSW, totalling 68 LGAs. New LGAs include - **Armidale, Ballina, Bathurst, Byron, Oberon, Tweed, Walcha and Yass Valley**. The complete list is available online.
- Residents and workers in these LGAs are eligible for free JEV vaccine.

## Updated eligibility criteria

- The current eligibility criteria are as follows:  
*In NSW, a JEV vaccine is available for free for people aged 2 months or older who:*
  - *live or work (including volunteer deployments) in any of these Local Government Areas*  
OR
  - *are travelling to these LGAs for outdoor recreation (such as camping, caravanning, boating, hunting, and fishing etc)*
- The complete eligibility criteria, including a list of all 68 LGAs at high risk of JEV are available online: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/jev/Pages/vaccination.aspx>

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

Keira Glasgow  
Director, One Health Branch, Health Protection NSW  
17 March 2026

Visit the [NSW Health Infectious disease alerts](#) webpage for a list of all active alerts.

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