

# 2025-26 Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccination

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Communications toolkit

NSW Health

December 2025

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# Purpose of this toolkit



Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a rare but serious mosquito-borne illness. In NSW, a JEV vaccine is available for free for people who are at high risk of Japanese encephalitis (JE). This includes people aged 2 months or older who live or work in Local Government Areas (LGAs) of high JEV concern and are at risk of mosquito bites.

This toolkit supports organisations in raising awareness of JEV risk and encouraging vaccination for those eligible. It includes key messages and links to download print and digital resources as well as information from NSW Health to help you share these messages with your community.

Please share the messages in this toolkit to help protect communities across NSW.

## **Key resources:**

JEV factsheet: [NSW Health – Japanese encephalitis](#)

Information on JEV vaccination: [NSW Health – JEV Vaccination](#)

## **Contact us:**

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# 1

## Key messages

Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis virus

# JEV vaccination



- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) can be serious and, in some cases, fatal.
- Getting vaccinated is a simple way to protect yourself against JEV.
- A JEV vaccine is available for free for people who are at higher risk of catching the virus. This includes people aged 2 months or older who live or work in LGAs of high JEV concern.
- A free vaccine is also recommended for people who live in any part of NSW and:
  - work, live, or are visiting a:
    - piggery, including farm workers and their families (including children aged 2 months and older) living at the piggery, pig transport workers, veterinarians (including veterinary students and nurses) and others involved in the care of pigs
    - pork abattoir or pork rendering plant.
  - work directly with mosquitoes through their surveillance (field or laboratory based) or control and management, and indirectly through management of vertebrate mosquito-borne disease surveillance systems (e.g., sentinel animals) such as:
    - environmental health officers and workers (urban and remote)
    - entomologists.
  - all diagnostic and research laboratory workers who may be exposed to the virus, such as people working with JEV cultures or mosquitoes with the potential to transmit JEV; as per the Australian Immunisation Handbook.
- The JEV vaccine has been in use for many years and is proven to be effective. Around 95% of people develop a good immune response to the virus following vaccination.
- The vaccine is safe, including for pregnant women. Severe reactions to JEV vaccine are very rare. As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction.
- Once fully vaccinated, it can take around 2-4 weeks for your body to develop a protective immune response to the virus.
- You should still take steps to prevent mosquito bites following vaccination as mosquitoes can also carry other viruses such as Ross River or Barmah Forest virus.
- If you're eligible, speak to your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service about getting vaccinated today.
- Some providers may charge an administration or consultation fee. Be sure to check if this applies to you.
- For more information visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/JEvaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/JEvaccine)

# JEV booster vaccination



- Japanese encephalitis can be serious, so if you live, work or travel to an area where there is risk of the virus, it is important to stay protected.
- JEV booster vaccination is recommended for some people at-risk of JEV 1-2 years after they were last fully vaccinated.
- People who were vaccinated before they were 18 years old, during pregnancy or who have a weakened immune system may need to get a booster dose.
- Speak to your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service and ask if you are due for a JEV booster vaccination.
- Some providers may charge an administration or consultation fee. Be sure to check if this applies to you.
- To learn more visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/JEvaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/JEvaccine)
- More information on the recommended doses of JE vaccines can be found in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

# Steps to protect against mosquitoes



- Now that some mosquitoes in NSW carry viruses like Japanese encephalitis, it's important to prevent mozzie bites by taking the steps to protect. Spray up, cover up, screen up.
- Your best protection against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry is to avoid mosquito bites.
- Mosquitoes can bite through tight clothing. Cover up while outside (wear loose, long-sleeved, light-coloured clothing and covered footwear and socks), particularly at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Apply mosquito repellent evenly to all areas of exposed skin. The most effective repellents contain picaridin, DEET or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Read the instructions to find out how often you should reapply repellent. Always apply sunscreen first and then apply repellent.
- Mosquito wristbands and patches are not recommended as there is no evidence that these provide good protection against mosquito bites.
- Natural or homemade repellents provide limited protection against mosquitoes.
- Where possible, limit outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about, particularly around areas like swamps and wetlands.
- For more information visit: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes)

# 2

## Digital resources

Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis virus

# Social tile 1



## Post copy

If you're seeing this post, you may live in an area of high Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) concern.

JEV can be serious and, in some cases, fatal.

Getting vaccinated is a simple way to protect yourself against JEV.

A free JEV vaccine is available to people who live or work in Local Government Areas (LGAs) of high JEV concern, or work with pigs or mosquitoes.

Some providers may charge a fee for consultation or administration of the vaccine.

Speak to your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service about getting vaccinated today.

For more information, visit: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

For use in areas that are at high risk of JEV (see page 20 for list of areas)

 [Download this social tile](#)

# Social tile 2



**Japanese encephalitis virus** is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes

NSW Check if you can get a free vaccine

Download this social tile

## Post copy

Mosquitoes can spread serious diseases in NSW, including Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), which is preventable by a vaccine.

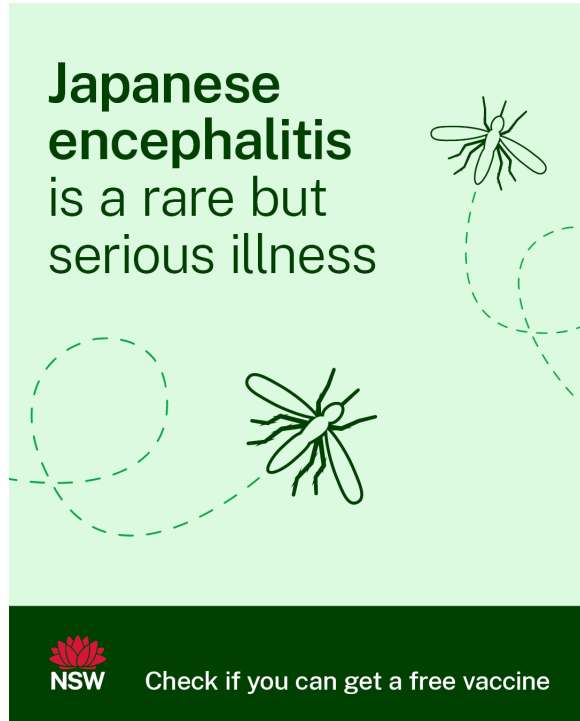
Protect yourself and loved ones this summer.

Speak to your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service today about a free JEV vaccine if you live or work in areas of high JEV concern.

Some providers may charge a fee for consultation or administration of the vaccine.

Check if you are eligible for a free JEV vaccine here: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

# Social tile 3



## Post copy

Japanese encephalitis is a rare but serious illness spread by infected mosquitoes.

If you are seeing this message, you may be at more risk of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).

A free JEV vaccine is available for people who live or work in some Local Government Areas, or if you work with pigs or mosquitoes.

Find out if you are eligible for a free JEV vaccine here: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)



[Download this social tile](#)

# Social tile 4

Already been vaccinated against **Japanese encephalitis** virus?



Speak to your GP or pharmacist about whether you need a booster to stay protected



[Download this social tile](#)

## Post copy

Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) can be serious. If you live, work or travel to an area where there is risk of the virus, it is important to stay protected.

People who were vaccinated before they were 18 years old, during pregnancy, or who have a weakened immune system may need to get a booster dose.

Speak to your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service and ask if you are due for a JEV booster vaccination.

For more information, visit:  
[www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

# Social tile 5



**Japanese encephalitis** is a rare but serious illness


**You can get it by being bitten by an infected mosquito.**

A free Japanese encephalitis vaccine is available and recommended for people who are at higher risk of being exposed to the virus. This includes people aged 2 months or older who live or work in areas of high concern.

People vaccinated before they were 18 years old or who have a weakened immune system, may need to get a booster.

Talk to your GP or pharmacist about getting vaccinated today.

 Check if your area is of high concern  
[health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

 [Download this social tile](#)

## Post copy

Japanese encephalitis is a rare but serious illness spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

A free Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccine is available for people who live or work in Local Government Areas of high JEV concern, or if you work with pigs or mosquitoes.

Some providers may charge a fee for consultation or administration of the vaccine.

Chat to your GP or pharmacist about getting vaccinated today.

When you book ask if there is a fee for consultation or administration of the vaccine.

Check if the area you live in is at risk of JEV and learn more about vaccination against JEV: [www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

# Newsletter – long form



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## Protect yourself from Japanese encephalitis

Japanese encephalitis is a rare but serious illness. It is caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) and spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

In NSW, a **JEV vaccine is available for free for people aged 2 months or older who live or work (including volunteer deployments) in Local Government Areas (LGAs) where JEV is of high concern and are at risk of mosquito bites.**

A free vaccine is also recommended for people in any part of NSW who:

- work, live, or are visiting a:
  - piggery, including farm workers and their families living at the piggery, pig transport workers, veterinarians (including veterinary students and nurses) and others involved in the care of pigs
  - pork abattoir or pork rendering plant.
- work directly with mosquitoes through their surveillance (field or laboratory based) or control and management, and indirectly through management of vertebrate mosquito-borne disease surveillance systems (e.g., sentinel animals) such as:
  - environmental health officers and workers (urban and remote)
  - entomologists.
- are diagnostic and research laboratory workers who may be exposed to the virus.

If you are eligible for a free JEV vaccine, speak to your doctor, local pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service about getting vaccinated today. Already been vaccinated? Check with them if you need a booster to stay protected.

Find more information at the NSW Health website: [Japanese encephalitis vaccination](#)

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## Keep mozzies away this summer

Mosquitoes can spread serious diseases in NSW, including Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), which is preventable by a vaccine.

Protect yourself and loved ones this summer:

- Spray up – use mosquito repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- Cover up – wear loose, long-sleeved, light-coloured clothing
- Clean up – remove water-holding containers around your home where mosquitoes may breed
- Screen up – ensure windows, doors, vents, and other openings have insect screens

Speak to your GP or pharmacist about a free JEV vaccine if you live or work in areas of high JEV concern. Already vaccinated? Ask the GP or pharmacist if you need a booster.

Share the steps to stay protected with your community:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mosquitoes)

# 3

## Print resources

Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis virus

# Posters

NSW Health

**Our community is eligible for a free Japanese encephalitis vaccine**



**Call your GP, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Centre about getting vaccinated.**

Some providers may charge a fee for consultation or administration of the vaccine.


**Japanese encephalitis vaccine**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)





November 2025 © NSW Health, SHPN (HPNSW) 251005.

For use in areas that are at high risk of JEV (see page 20 for list of areas)

 [Download this poster](#)

NSW Health


**Ask us about getting a Japanese encephalitis vaccination today**



**We are here to help you stay safe from serious illnesses spread by mosquito bites.**

**Japanese encephalitis vaccine**

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)



November 2025 © NSW Health, SHPN (HPNSW) 251008.

For use by vaccination providers

 [Download this poster](#)

# DL Flyers

**Vaccinated people should still take measures to avoid mosquito bites, and the best way to avoid Japanese encephalitis is to not get bitten by mosquitoes.**

Protect yourself by:

- using insect repellent. The best mosquito repellents have diethyltoluamide (DEET), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- wearing long, loose fitting and light-coloured clothing when outside, and covered shoes
- not spending lots of time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- covering all windows, doors, vents, and other entrances with insect screens
- removing any water-holding containers around your home where mosquitoes may breed
- use insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units (inside), and mosquito coils (outdoors) to clear rooms and repel mosquitoes from an area
- ensuring your tents have fly screens or bringing mosquito nets when camping.

NSW Health

**Take the steps to protect yourself from Japanese encephalitis**

Speak to your doctor, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service about getting a JEV vaccine today.

For more information and to check your eligibility for a free JEV vaccine, visit the website or scan the QR code below.

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)



November 2025 © NSW Health, SHPN (HP NSW) 251030.

**Vaccinated people should still take measures to avoid mosquito bites, and the best way to avoid Japanese encephalitis is to not get bitten by mosquitoes.**

Protect yourself by:

- using insect repellent. The best mosquito repellents have diethyltoluamide (DEET), picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus
- wearing long, loose fitting and light-coloured clothing when outside, and covered shoes
- not spending lots of time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active
- covering all windows, doors, vents, and other entrances with insect screens
- removing any water-holding containers around your home where mosquitoes may breed
- use insecticide sprays, vapour dispensing units (inside), and mosquito coils (outdoors) to clear rooms and repel mosquitoes from an area
- ensuring your tents have fly screens or bringing mosquito nets when camping.

Speak to your doctor, pharmacist or Aboriginal Medical Service about getting a JEV vaccine today.

For more information and to check your eligibility for a free JEV vaccine, visit the website or scan the QR code below.

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)



NSW Health



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[Download the JEV flyer](#)



[Download the JEV flyer for Aboriginal communities](#)

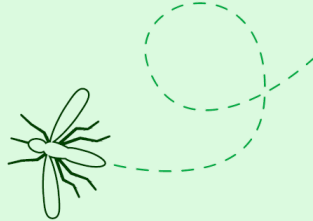
# 4

## Translated resources

Vaccination against Japanese encephalitis virus

# Translated social tiles - vaccination

## Japanese encephalitis is a rare but serious illness



**You can get it by being bitten by an infected mosquito.**

A free Japanese encephalitis vaccine is available and recommended for people who are at higher risk of being exposed to the virus. This includes people aged 2 months or older who live or work in areas of high concern.

People vaccinated before they were 18 years old or who have a weakened immune system, may need to get a booster.

Talk to your GP or pharmacist about getting vaccinated today.



Check if your area is of high concern  
[health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine](http://health.nsw.gov.au/jevaccine)

## This tile on JE vaccination is available in:

Arabic

Italian

Chinese – Simplified

Malayalam

Filipino

Nepali

Gujarati

Punjabi

Hindi

Vietnamese

# Translated JEV fact sheets

NSW Health Fact sheet

## Japanese encephalitis

**What is Japanese encephalitis?**  
Japanese encephalitis is a rare but serious illness caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus. It is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

**What are the symptoms of Japanese encephalitis?**  
Most people who get Japanese encephalitis do not have any symptoms. If you get symptoms, they can appear 5 to 15 days after getting bitten by infected mosquitoes.  
Some people may get symptoms such as:

- fever
- headache
- vomiting

People with a severe infection (1 in every 250 people) may get symptoms such as:

- neck stiffness
- disorientation
- tremors
- coma
- seizures
- paralysis.

If you get these symptoms contact a doctor right away or call healthdirect on 1800 022 222 for free instant health advice. In an emergency call Triple Zero (000) or visit your nearest emergency department.

Among those who get a serious illness, some may have lifelong neurological complications or die.

If you are bitten by mosquitoes, monitor for symptoms and seek medical attention. Learn more on [mosquito bite prevention and taking care of bites](#).

**How is Japanese encephalitis virus spread?**  
It is spread when a mosquito bites an animal (such as pigs or waterbirds) that has Japanese encephalitis virus and then this mosquito bites a human.  
Humans are not able to give Japanese encephalitis virus to other humans. Humans cannot get Japanese encephalitis virus by touching an infected animal or eating animal products.

**Who has a higher chance of getting Japanese encephalitis?**  
Those who are more likely to get Japanese encephalitis are:

- people who work or do outside activities (e.g. camping, fishing, hiking, gardening) in high-risk areas.

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This JEV fact sheet is available in:

[Chinese – Simplified](#)

[Filipino](#)

[Nepali](#)

[Punjabi](#)

# 5

## Appendix

LGAs of high JEV concern

# LGAs of high JEV concern

- 
- Albury
  - Balranald
  - Berrigan
  - Bland
  - Bogan
  - Bourke
  - Brewarrina
  - Broken Hill
  - Cabonne
  - Cootamundra-Gundagai
  - Cowra
  - Carrathool
  - Central Darling
  - Cobar
  - Coolamon
  - Coonamble
  - Dubbo Regional
  - Edward River
  - Federation
  - Forbes
  - Gilgandra
  - Glen Innes Severn
  - Goulburn Mulwaree
  - Greater Hume
  - Griffith
  - Gunnedah
  - Gwydir
  - Hay
  - Hilltops
  - Inverell
  - Junee
  - Kyogle
  - Lachlan
  - Leeton
  - Lismore
  - Liverpool Plains
  - Lockhart
  - Mid-Western
  - Moree Plains
  - Murray River
  - Murrumbidgee
  - Orange
  - Narrabri
  - Narrandera
  - Narromine
  - Parkes
  - Richmond Valley
  - Tamworth
  - Temora
  - Tenterfield
  - Unincorporated Far West Area
  - Upper Hunter
  - Upper Lachlan
  - Uralla
  - Wagga Wagga
  - Walgett
  - Warren
  - Warrumbungle
  - Weddin
  - Wentworth
-

