Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Vaccine Update- 516

New Vaccine Update platform, Western Australian Immunisation Schedule redesign and webinar, new study exploring reasons for vaccine uptake among Aboriginal children in Perth, and University of Western Australia Public Policy Institute publication on misinformation and disinformation contributing to declining vaccine update.

25/11/2026

New Vaccine Update newsletter platform

The Department of Health has moved to a new newsletter platform, making it easier for you to manage your subscriptions and stay informed about the topics that matter most to you. Take a moment to review the newsletters available and update your preferences. While the platform is different, the Vaccine Update newsletter remains the main source of direct communication with Immunisation Providers across WA on all program related updates.

We are committed to protecting your privacy, and any personal information you provide is stored and managed securely in line with relevant privacy and information security requirements.

Redesigned Western Australian Immunisation Schedule launched

The redesigned Western Australian Immunisation Schedule (the Schedule) was launched on 5 November 2026. The Schedule has been redesigned to enhance useability, accessibility, navigation, and support providers to deliver immunisation programs safely and effectively. It also contributes to achieving the vision of the *WA Immunisation Strategy 2024-2028* to ensure every individual, in every community, at every stage of life, can confidently engage with immunisation, supporting robust health for all Western Australians.

Key changes include:

- landscape layout for improved readability and content
- white background to enhance visibility and draw attention to key information
- separate boxes, stronger borders and colour coding to define various cohorts
- pregnancy section separated from the adult cohort and moved to the start of the Schedule to support a lifespan immunisation approach
- content in the 'Important Information' column made more concise and understandable
- improved navigation by presenting catch-up guidance in chronological order
- expanded content to include all WA Health-distributed vaccines, including temporary outbreak response and special-risk programs
- addition of a QR code for easy access to the live content on the immunisation schedule webpage

Please note, the WA Aboriginal Immunisation Schedule remains a separate document.

The redesigned WA Immunisation Schedule is now available online and replaces previous versions. Immunisation providers are encouraged to access the schedule digitally to ensure they are using the most current version and easy access to supporting resources.

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

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Redesigned WA Immunisation Schedule webinar

The Immunisation Program will be hosting a webinar to support the launch of the redesigned WA Immunisation Schedule.

This webinar will provide an overview of the new Schedule and highlight key design features and navigation improvements. Participants can provide feedback and ask questions.

The webinar will be presented by the Immunisation Program and Dr Paul Effler, Senior Medical Advisor.

Date: Wednesday 20 January

Time: 12pm – 1pm

Mode: MS Teams

Register to attend this free event or scan the QR code below.

New study exploring reasons for vaccine uptake among Aboriginal children in Perth

A study seeking to understand the barriers and facilitators to vaccine uptake and timeliness among Aboriginal children in Perth was recently published in the *Australian Journal of Primary Health.*

The study found that motivation among caregivers to vaccinate children remains high, with caregivers recognising the importance of protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases. The

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findings reinforce the value of culturally appropriate education, antenatal vaccine discussions, and effective reminder systems to improve on-time immunisation coverage.

More than 9 in 10 Aboriginal children are protected through childhood vaccination by age five.

As an immunisation provider, you are a trusted source of information. Every healthcare encounter presents an opportunity to check a patient's vaccination history and eligibility for vaccines, recommend and vaccinate where appropriate.

University of Western Australia Public Policy Institute publication on misinformation and disinformation contributing to declining vaccine update

The University of Western Australia (UWA) Public Policy Institute have published a policy brief tackling misinformation and disinformation to increase vaccine uptake. This policy brief outlines the declining vaccination rates in Australia suggesting misinformation and disinformation are major contributing factors to vaccine confidence.

The policy brief proposes a system-wide response in 4 key areas:

- strengthening existing systems through accessible, no-cost vaccination services, safety surveillance and a new no-fault compensation scheme for rare vaccine injuries
- supporting health professionals with resources and training to facilitate effective vaccine conversations
- monitoring and rapidly responding to misinformation and disinformation through expert corrections and pre-emptive interventions

investing in school-based education to build vaccination literacy and help students

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