**JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VACCINATION PROGRAM- Eligible Employee letter -PILBARA**

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a rare, serious infection caused by Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV). JEV is spread to humans and other animals, such as waterbirds, pigs and horses, by infected mosquitoes.

Human cases of JEV have been detected in the Northern Territory, Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Although there have been no human cases of JEV detected in Western Australia, there have been recent detections of JE activity in animals in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

WA Health is proactively implementing a targeted vaccination program aimed at protecting persons in geographic areas with higher risk of JEV exposure.

Persons requesting vaccination due to potential occupational exposure will be required to provide this letter of eligibility from their employer to present at the vaccination appointment.

Eligibility criteria due to occupation, are persons who:

* Are employed in a role for 30 days or more in an area that is located in an eligible postcode or suburb **AND** spend at least 4 hours per day outdoors, as part of their occupation, on most days.
* work directly with mosquitoes, and indirectly through sentinel animal surveillance systems in the Pilbara regions e.g. environmental health officers, entomologists, environmental consultants involved in mosquito management, rangers and park staff, and depot workers.

The table below outlines the areas that are currently eligible.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Eligibility areas | Details |
| Postcode 6753 | Including Newman |
| Postcode 6762 | Western Desert |

Dear Health Provider,

I confirm that (insert name of employee)**…………………………………………………………….…** meets the eligibility criteria as listed above.

**Employers name:**

**Employers Position:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Organisation name:**

Yours sincerely,

………………………………………

Date: / /2024

Note to employer: Please print and provide this completed letter to the eligible employee to bring to their vaccination appointment. For vaccination clinic information, please visit [healthywa.wa.gov.au/JEV](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/J_M/Japanese-encephalitis)