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| Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccination program |
| Information for immunisation providers |
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# Vaccination

## Who JE vaccine is recommended for?

**In Victoria, JE vaccine is available free-of-charge and recommended for people most at risk:**

**High-risk local government areas**

People aged 2 months or older who live or routinely work in any of the following local government areas of Campaspe, Gannawarra, Greater Shepparton, Indigo, Loddon, Mildura, Moira, Swan Hill, Wodonga, Towong, Benalla, Wangaratta, Strathbogie, Buloke, Greater Bendigo, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack **AND**:

* regularly spend time engaging in outdoor activities that place them as risk of mosquito bites, **OR**
* are experiencing homelessness, **OR**
* are living in conditions with limited mosquito protection (e.g. tents, caravans, dwellings with no insect screens), **OR**
* are engaging in outdoor flood recovery (clean-up) efforts, including repeated professional or volunteer deployments.\*

*\* Vaccination can be administered before arrival in flood affected areas to those from other regions deployed for recovery efforts by arrangement.*

The risk of exposure to mosquitoes is low at an elevation of greater than 500 metres. Therefore, JE vaccination is only recommended for individuals who spend significant time outdoors below this elevation in these LGAs.

**No restriction to local government areas**

* People who work at, reside at, or have a planned non-deferable visit to a:
  + piggery, including but not limited to farm workers and their families (including children aged 2 months and older) living at the piggery, transport workers, veterinarians and others involved in the care of pigs
  + property that has been confirmed to be infected with JE virus
  + property suspected to be infected with JE virus
  + pork abattoir or pork rendering plant.
* Personnel who 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 persons working with JE virus cultures or mosquitoes with the potential to transmit JE virus; as per the current edition of the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis) <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>.

## [Vaccine information](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis#accordion-para-8691-184189)

There are two safe and effective vaccines for JE, Imojev® and JEspect®. Imojev® vaccine is prioritised in the Victorian JE vaccination program.

Information relating to the administration of JE vaccines is available in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis). Clinical guidance includes:

* vaccines, dosage and administration
* co-administration advice
* contraindications and precautions, including recommendations for people who are immunocompromised
* adverse events.

Further guidance is also available regarding the preparation of JEspect® vaccine for infants and children aged ≥2 months to <3 years. Please refer to [[Japanese encephalitis | NCIRS](https://ncirs.org.au/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs-and-other-resources/japanese-encephalitis)](https://ncirs.org.au/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs-and-other-resources/japanese-encephalitis) <https://ncirs.org.au/ncirs-fact-sheets-faqs-and-other-resources/japanese-encephalitis>.

### Booster dose requirement

JE vaccine booster doses are currently **not** recommended or funded as part of the Victorian JE vaccination program.

* Eligible clients presenting for a booster dose of the JE vaccine (either Imojev® or JEspect®) should be advised that the booster dose is currently not required.
* The [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis) advises that individuals who have received a dose of Imojev® vaccine at ≥18 years of age do not require a booster dose.

People seeking JE vaccination for the purpose of international travel are advised to discuss their vaccination requirments with their GP or a travel clinic. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis) for further information.

# Reporting JE vaccine to AIR

All JE vaccines **must be reported** to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Reporting JE vaccinations to the AIR means that the register contains a complete and reliable dataset and is able to monitor immunisation coverage and administration. It also means that individuals have a complete record of their vaccinations. Please ensure your report the **correct** JE vaccine brand to AIR, avoid using generic codes where possible.

# Vaccine transport, storage and handling

JE vaccine is to be stored and transported according to [National vaccine storage guidelines: Strive for 5](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5) <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-vaccine-storage-guidelines-strive-for-5>.

* Store JE vaccine at +2°C to +8°C.
* Do not freeze.
* Protect from light.

For cold chain breach information and action please visit [Cold chain breach reporting](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/cold-chain-breach-reporting) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/cold-chain-breach-reporting>>.

# Vaccine ordering and supply

Providers can order the JE vaccine (both Imojev® and JEspect®) via the [[Onelink Online portal](https://www.onelinkonline.net/)](https://www.onelinkonline.net/) <https://www.onelinkonline.net/>. Due to limited supply, vaccine order limits are in place. **Orders placed over the set limits will be automatically reduced.**

# Pharmacist immunisers administering JE vaccines

In Victoria, [Pharmacist Immunisers](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/pharmacist-immunisers) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/pharmacist-immunisers>are authorised to administer JE vaccine subject to the following conditions:

* successful completion of the [JE eLearning module](https://vic-immunisation-learning.com/immunisation/) <https://vic-immunisation-learning.com/immunisation/> is required prior to administration of the JE vaccine.
* administration of JE vaccine **only** to people aged **five years and older** who are recommended for vaccination, as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s [Japanese encephalitis](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis> web page.

# Nurse immunisers administering JE vaccines

In Victoria, [Nurse Immunisers](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/nurse-immunisers) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/nurse-immunisers> are authorised to administer JE vaccine subject to the following conditions:

* successful completion of the [JE eLearning module](https://vic-immunisation-learning.com/immunisation/) is required prior to administration of the JE vaccine.
* administration of JE vaccine to people who are recommended for vaccination, as listed on the Victorian Department of Health’s [Japanese encephalitis](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus) web page.

# JE eLearning module

The Department of Health has developed an online [JE eLearning module](https://vic-immunisation-learning.com/) to educate pharmacist immunisers and nurse immunisers about JE immunisation before they can administer the vaccine in Victoria.

This online training supports pharmacist immunisers and nurse immunisers to:

* identify key facts about JE, including how the virus is spread, the signs and symptoms of infection, and strategies to reduce spread
* identify priority cohorts eligible to receive free (government-funded) JE vaccine in Victoria
* identify the different JE vaccine brands, dosing schedule and route of administration for JE vaccines.
* recognise precautions and contraindications for JE vaccines
* identify key resources available to support the safe use and delivery of JE vaccines

A certificate will be issued after successful completion of this training. This certificate must be provided to your employer prior to administering vaccines.

# Adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)

Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination In the Community (SAEFVIC) is Victoria’s safety partner.

* All unexpected or medically attended AEFI are to be reported to SAEFVIC.
* Contact SAEFVIC for expert clinical advice following vaccine errors.
* Manage the AEFI by your usual clinical pathways.
* Immediately notify SAEFVIC via phone 1300 882 924 (Option 1) Mon-Fri 9am to 4.30pm).
* Submit an AEFI report online to [SAFEVIC <https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC>.](https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC)

# Further information

* [Australian Immunisation Handbook – Japanese encephalitis chapter](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis) <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccine-preventable-diseases/japanese-encephalitis>
* [Australian Government Department of Health, Therapeutic Goods Administration - Australian Public Assessment Report for Japanese encephalitis vaccine (live, attenuated).](https://www.tga.gov.au/auspar/auspar-japanese-encephalitis-vaccine-live-attenuated) <https://www.tga.gov.au/auspar/auspar-japanese-encephalitis-vaccine-live-attenuated>
* [Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) advice regarding vaccination against Japanese encephalitis virus](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/cdna-advice-regarding-vaccination-against-japanese-encephalitis-virus) <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/cdna-advice-regarding-vaccination-against-japanese-encephalitis-virus>
* [SAEFVIC](https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC) <<https://www.safevac.org.au/Home/Info/VIC>>
* [Japanese encephalitis resources](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/japanese-encephalitis-jev-resources) <<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/japanese-encephalitis-jev-resources>>
* [Japanese encephalitis resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoplehttps://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/japanese-encephalitis-jev-resources-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/japanese-encephalitis-jev-resources-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people)
* For JE vaccine specific queries please [contact the Immunisation Unit via email](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>

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| To receive this document in another format, [email the Immunisation Unit](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.  Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.  © State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Health, December 2023.  Available at [Japanese encephalitis virus](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis-virus> |