

# PHN Statewide Immunisation Forum

## Immunisation Program

14 November 2024

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# Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the many lands our remote meeting is held, and their connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present today.

# Overview

National Immunisation Program

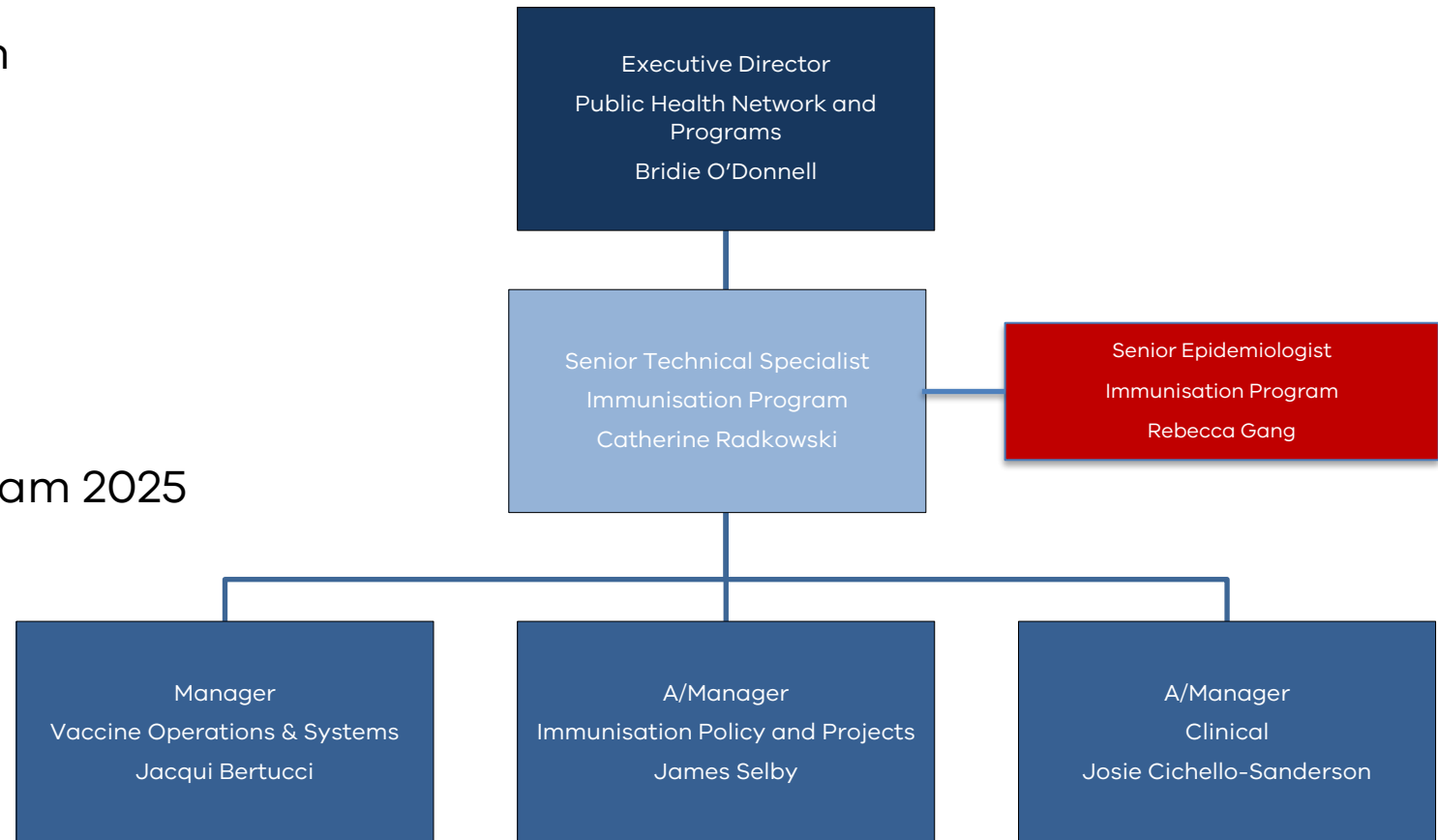
Seasonal Influenza 2024

Pertussis

Mpox

Japanese encephalitis

Hybrid RSV immunisation program 2025



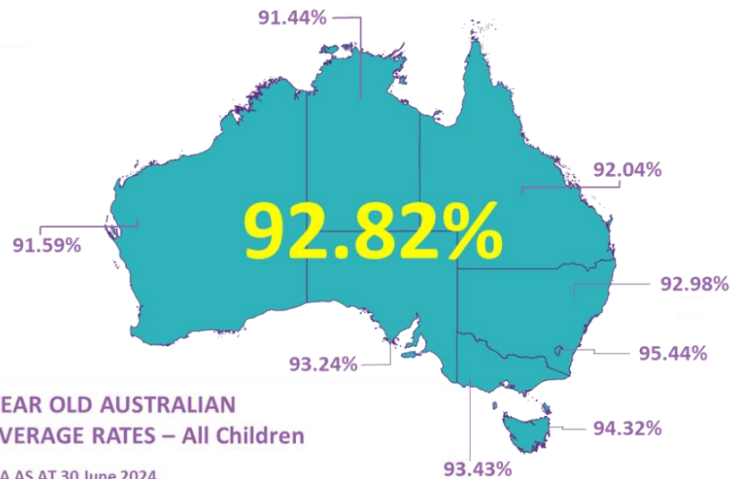
# Vaccination coverage rates for children



A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

- The NIP immunisation coverage target is 95% across the three childhood cohorts, 1 year, 2 years & 5 years.
- **Victorian immunisation coverage** across all childhood age groups **remains above** the national **average** but below national target of 95%. See [PHN & SA3 data](#).

## 1 year

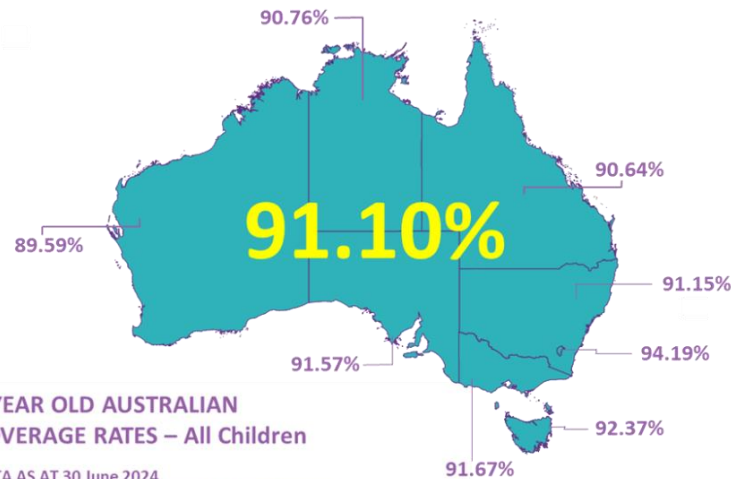


1 YEAR OLD AUSTRALIAN COVERAGE RATES – All Children

DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

Only ACT has exceeded the 95% target

## 2 years

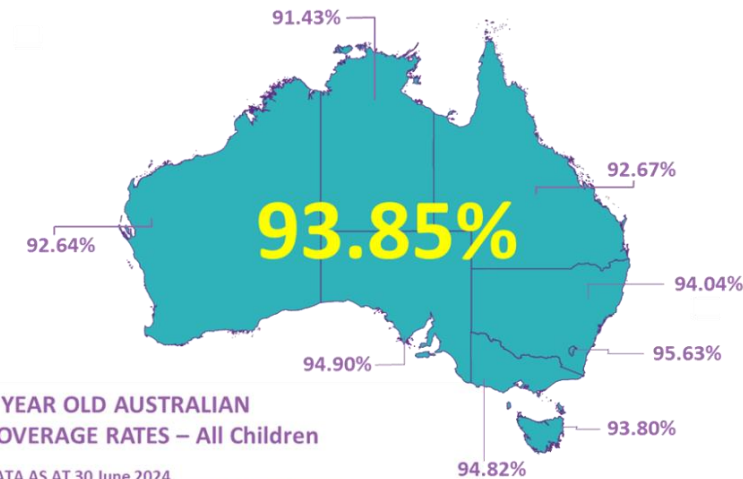


2 YEAR OLD AUSTRALIAN COVERAGE RATES – All Children

DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

No jurisdictions have achieved the 95% target

## 5 years



5 YEAR OLD AUSTRALIAN COVERAGE RATES – All Children

DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

Only ACT have exceeded the 95% target

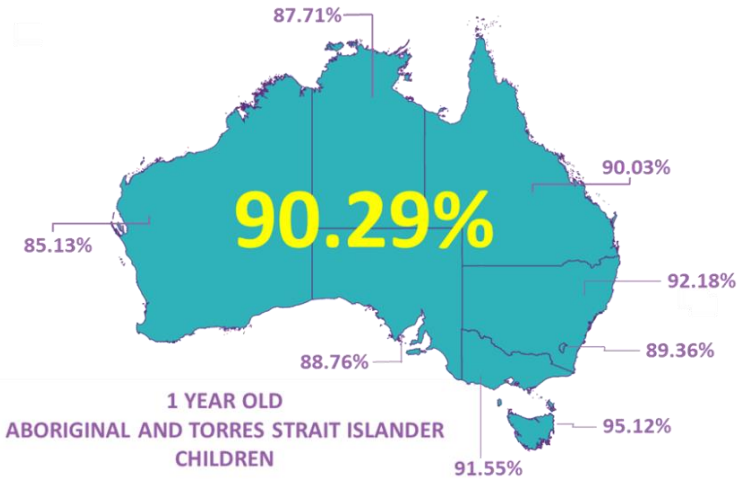
# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children



A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

- The NIP immunisation coverage target is 95% across the three childhood cohorts, 1 year, 2 years & 5 years for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- **Victorian immunisation coverage** for all age groups **remains above** the national **average**, but below national target of 95% for 1 year and 2 years. See [PHN & SA3 data](#).
- Australian Government [Childhood Immunisation resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#).

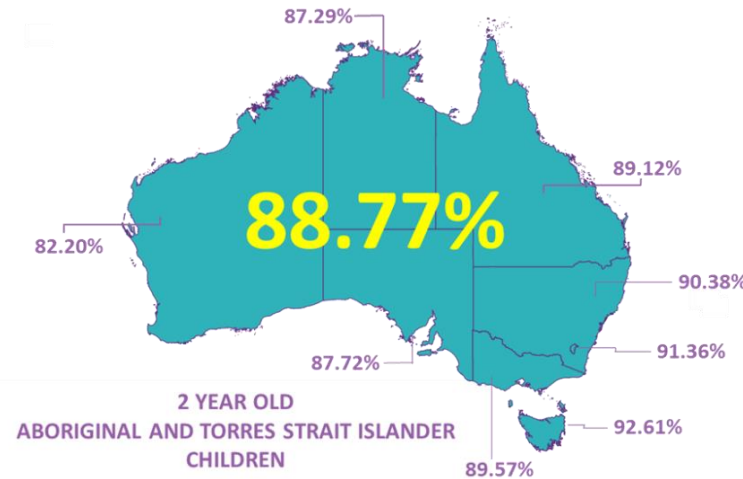
## 1 year



DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

No jurisdictions have achieved the 95% target

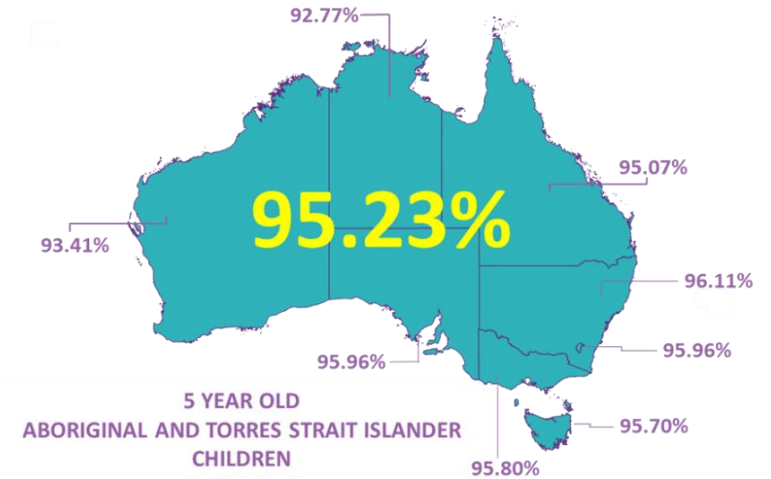
## 2 years



DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

No jurisdictions have achieved the 95% target

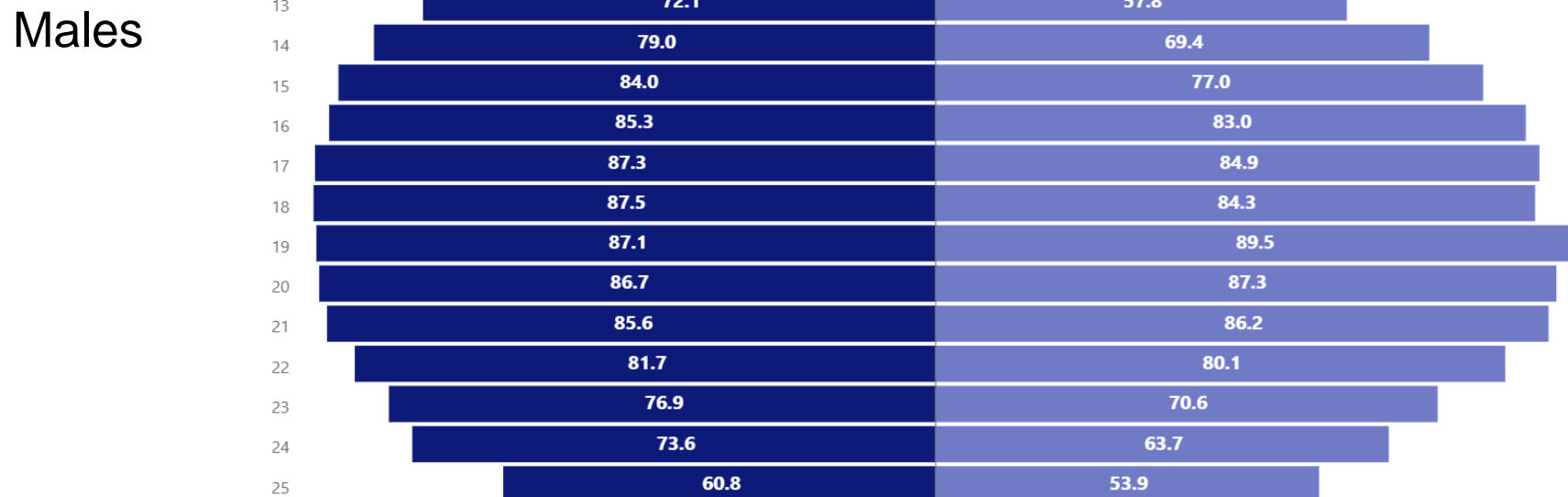
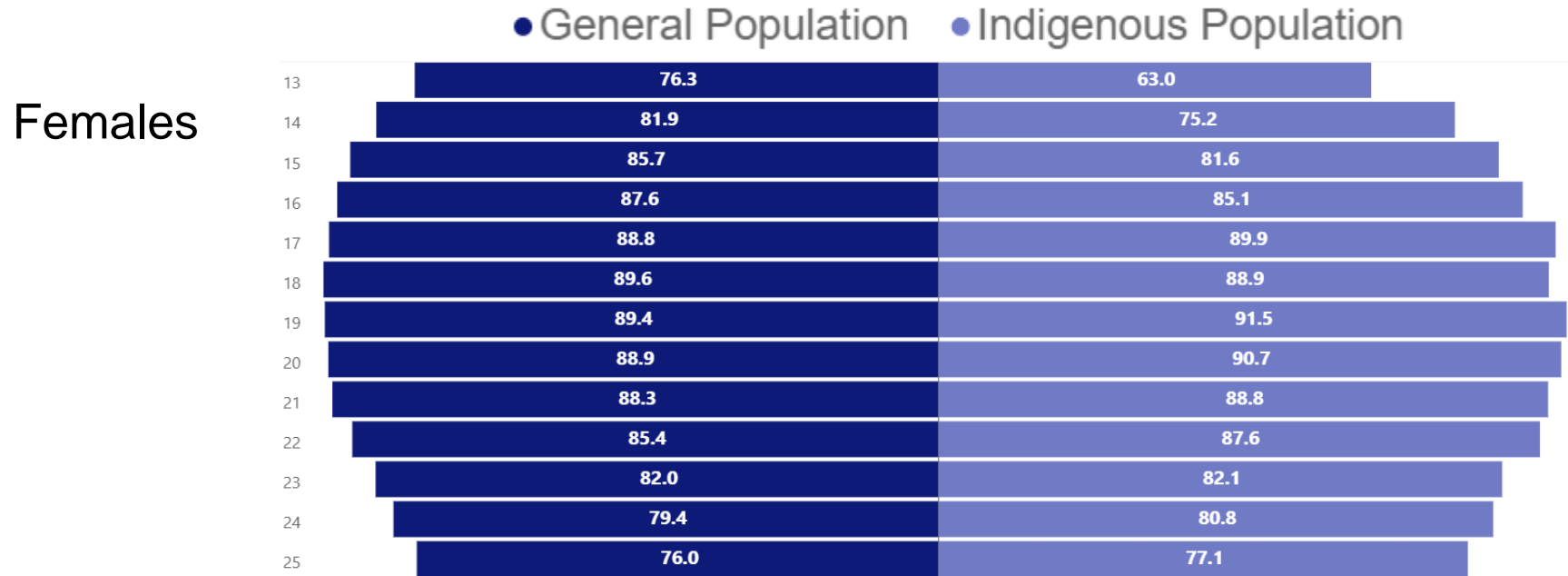
## 5 years



DATA AS AT 30 June 2024  
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER

ACT, NSW, QLD, TAS and VIC have exceeded the 95% target

# HPV vaccination coverage in adolescents 2023



A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

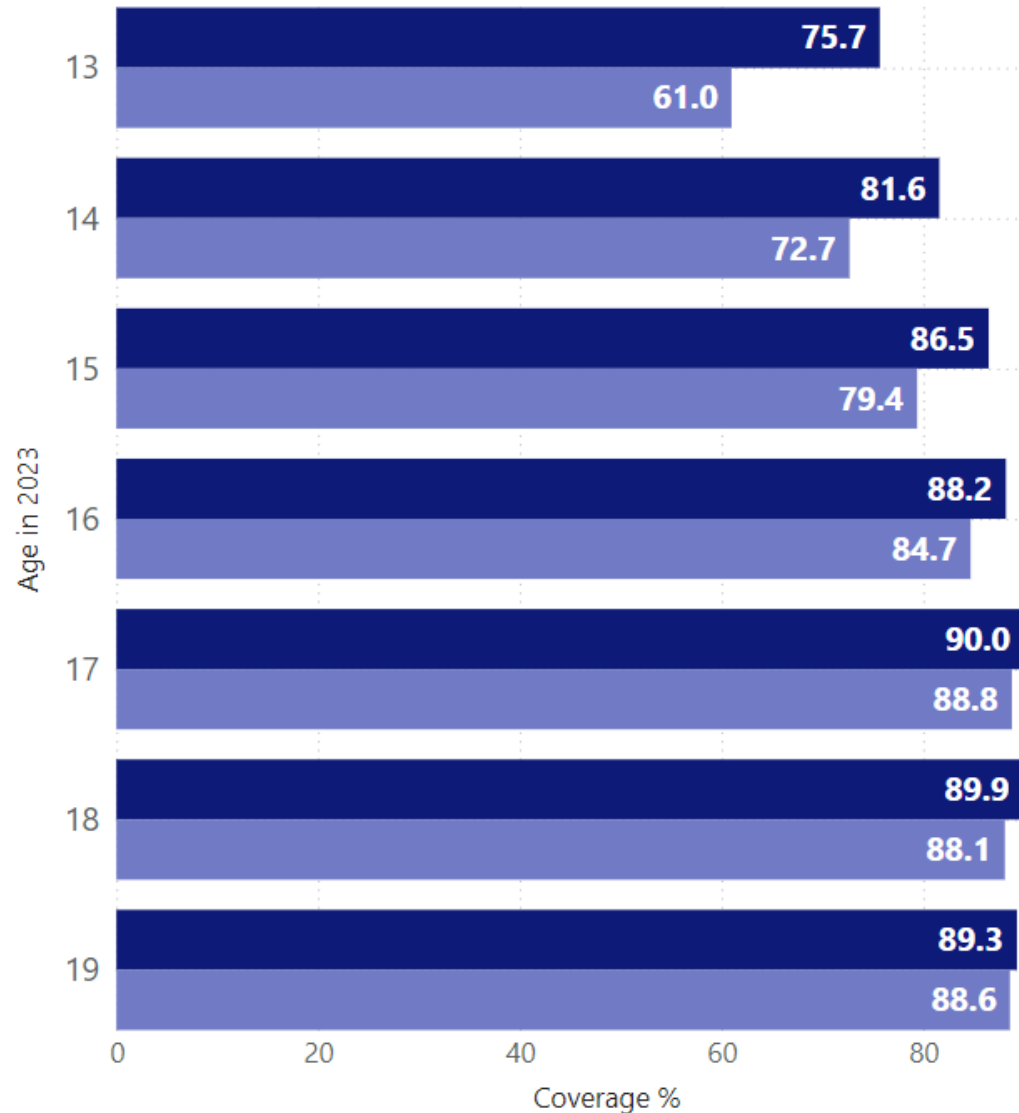
- **Victorian adolescent immunisation coverage** across all antigens is above the national average. See [State data](#)
- HPV coverage target is 80%
- These data are from the [NCIRS Annual Immunisation Coverage Report](#)



# Vaccination coverage in adolescents 2023

## dTPa

● General Population ● Indigenous Population



Fully Immunised  
HPV +  
dTPa +  
MenACWY

**18 Years**

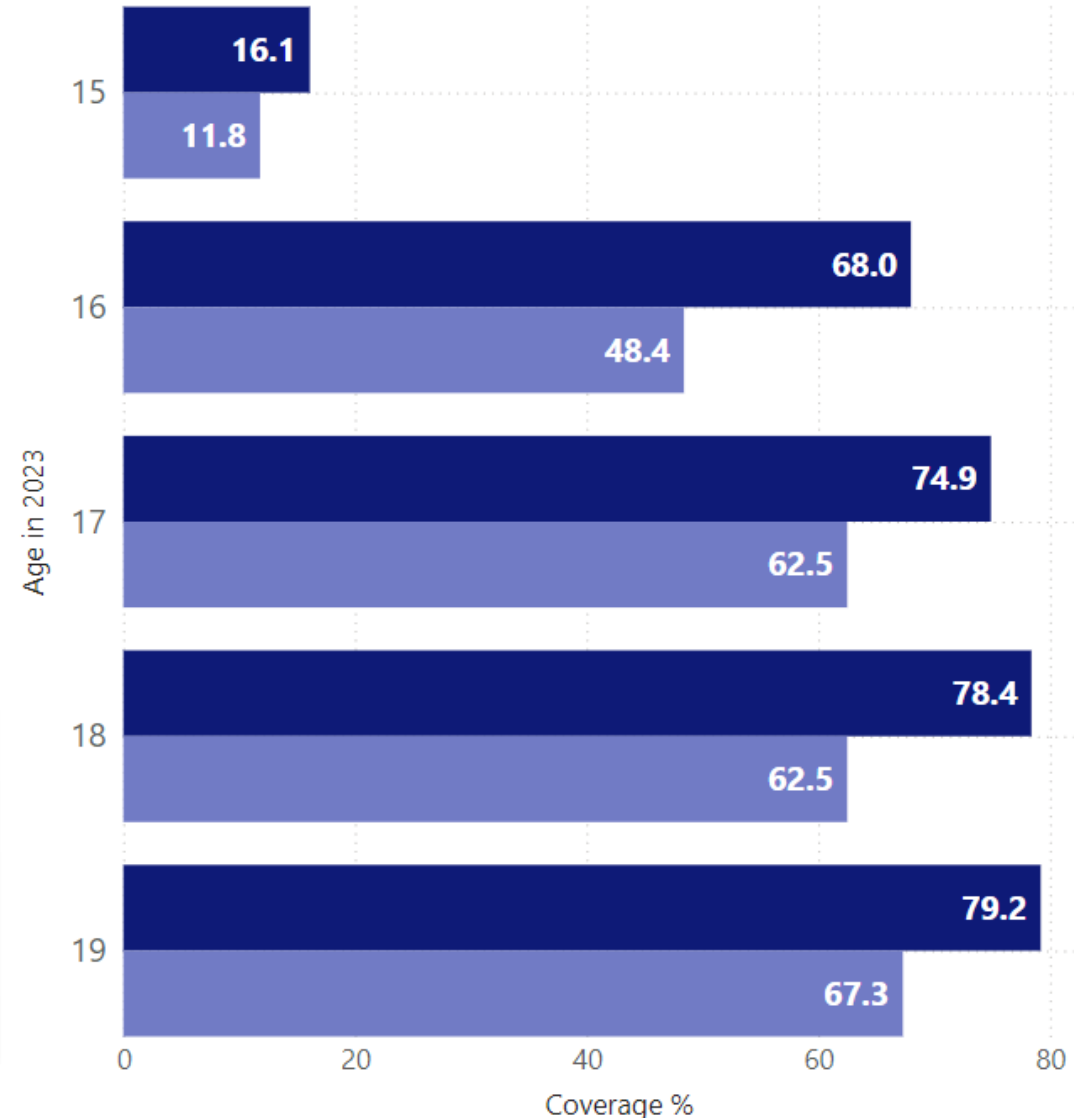
**General  
74.3%**

**Indigenous  
59.0%**

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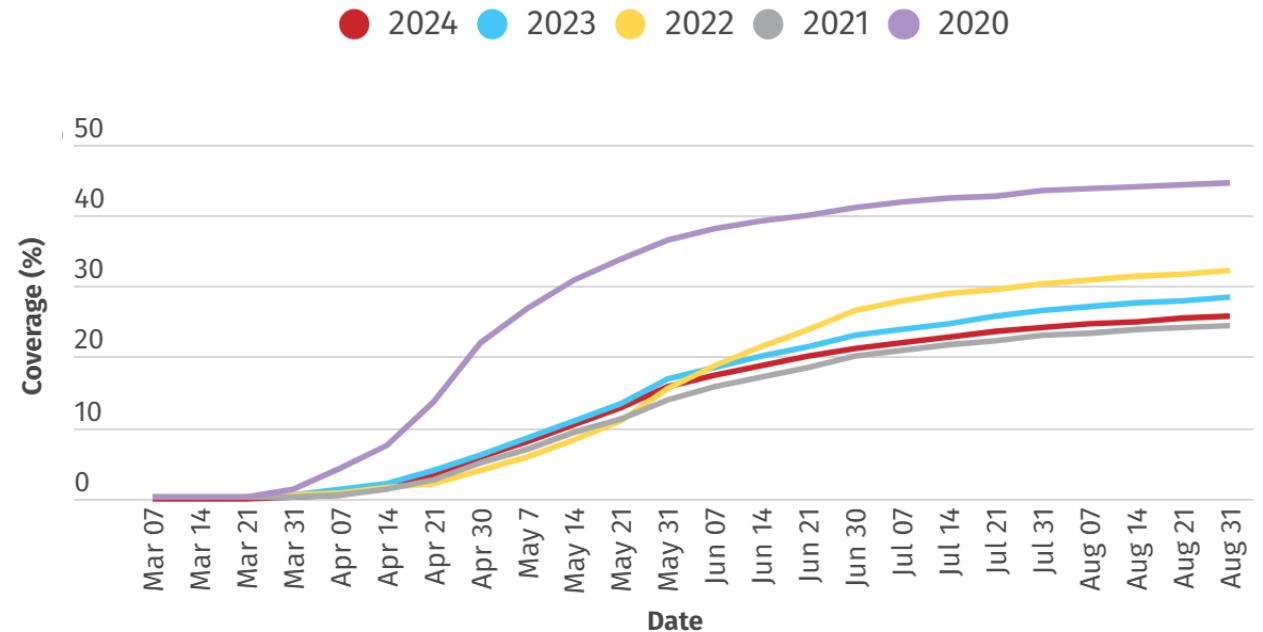
## MenACWY

● General Population ● Indigenous Population



# Seasonal Influenza

- 2024 influenza vaccination coverage was lower than 2023 and 2022.
- Victorian coverage was higher than the national average across all age cohorts.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coverage was lower than the general population except for people  $\geq 65$  years.
- GPs administered the largest number of influenza vaccinations to Victorians. However, total vaccinations decreased by 10% from 2023.
- Pharmacy administered vaccinations to Victorians increased by 35% compared to 2023, likely due to the introduction of the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program.

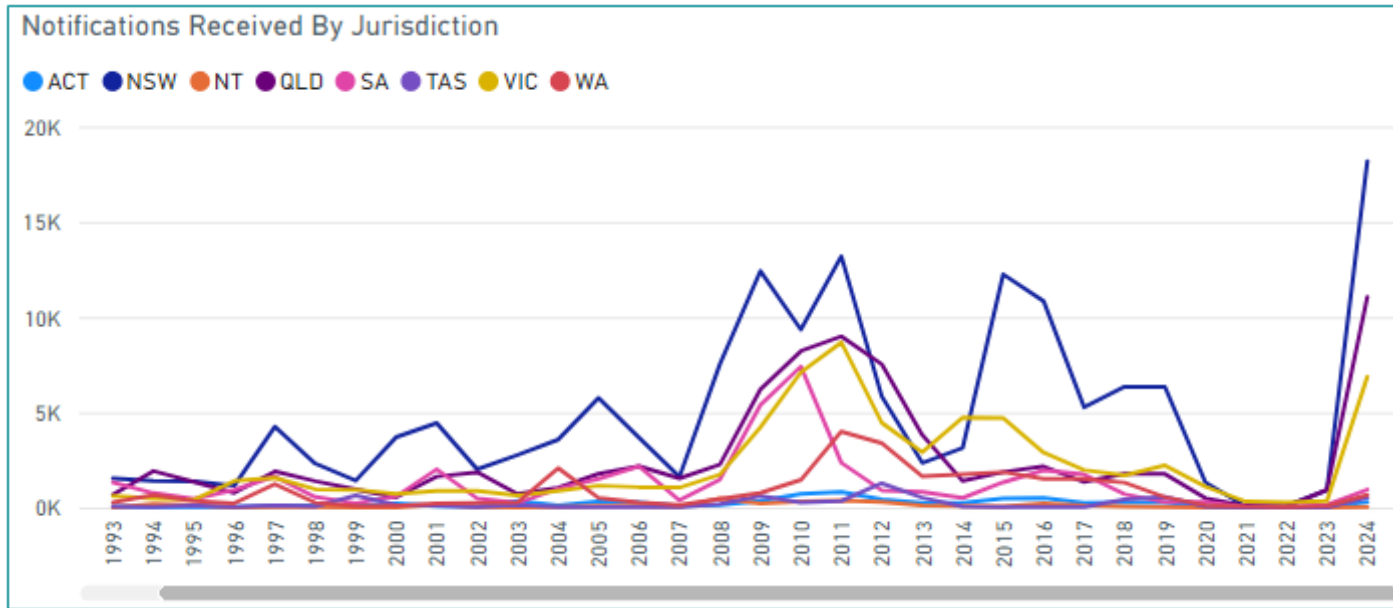


	ACT	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	AUS
<b>6 mo - &lt; 5 yrs</b>	47.7	24.5	29.8	22.1	26.9	22.0	29.4	32.6	<b>25.8</b>
<b>5 - &lt; 15 yrs</b>	21.8	13.1	15.0	13.9	14.5	13.1	14.0	13.3	<b>14.0</b>
<b>15 - &lt; 50 yrs</b>	30.5	19.1	23.0	18.7	23.3	17.1	22.7	21.0	<b>20.4</b>
<b>50 - &lt; 65 yrs</b>	42.6	30.8	34.6	32.6	37.1	29.2	39.6	25.2	<b>32.7</b>
<b><math>\geq 65</math> yrs</b>	65.2	58.4	61.8	60.8	66.5	58.5	67.7	33.9	<b>60.5</b>

Influenza vaccination coverage calculated using vaccinations given 1 March - 31 August 2024 (inclusive).  
 NCIRS: <https://ncirs.org.au/influenza-vaccination-coverage-data>



# Vaccine preventable disease – Pertussis



Source – National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System, 28 October 2024

Pertussis outbreaks occur every few years.

Severity varies with age and immunisation status.

Unimmunised infants who are too young to be fully immunised have the highest risk of hospitalisations and deaths.

The whooping cough combination vaccine is free under the National Immunisation Program for:

- children aged 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 18 months and 4 years
- adolescents aged 11-13 years through school-based vaccination programs (Year 7)
- pregnant people (ideally between 20-32 weeks), in **each** pregnancy

Catch up for eligible people under 20 years old and refugees and other humanitarian entrants of any age\*

\*as recommended in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

# RSV – National immunisation program 2025

## Maternal Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine RSV (Abrysvo)

[Eligible](#) pregnant people - 28 weeks to 36 weeks' gestation

**Abrysvo** is the **only** RSV vaccine approved for use in pregnant people

Australian Immunisation Handbook recommendations:

- A single dose recommended for all pregnant people at 28 to 36 weeks' gestation
- Can be given beyond 36 weeks' gestation – but infant may require nirsevimab if less than 2 weeks prior to delivery
- Not routinely recommended for use less than 28 weeks until additional safety and efficacy data is available
- People who are breastfeeding but not pregnant are not recommended to receive an RSV vaccine
- Advice on use in subsequent pregnancies will be provided when data is available

**NOTE** – Arexvy® vaccine is registered for use in adults aged 60 years and over and **should not** be administered to pregnant people. Report errors to SAEFVIC.

# RSV – Hybrid immunisation program 2025

## National immunisation Program – Maternal Respiratory Syncytial Virus vaccine (Abrysvo)

[Eligible](#) pregnant people - 28 weeks to 36 weeks' gestation

### Infant RSV immunisation (nirsevimab)

The Victorian Department of Health will implement an infant RSV immunisation program to prevent RSV in infants most at risk from severe RSV disease.

Nirsevimab (a long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody) will be available for infants:

- whose mothers did not receive RSV vaccination during pregnancy OR
- who were vaccinated less than two weeks before delivery;
- who are at increased risk of severe RSV, regardless of their mother's vaccination status; and
- some children entering their second RSV season who are at risk or have medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe RSV disease.

The infant program will run from April to September 2025. Further details and clinical guidance to be released.



## Administration errors

- Brand confusion – [Abrysvo](#) and Arexvy
- Indication for use - which brand is licenced for which person, reconstitution is required

## Avoid administration errors

- [Abrysvo](#) and Arexvy are **not approved** for use in infants and young children
- [Abrysvo](#) is the **only** RSV vaccine recommended for pregnant people (NIP)
- Arexvy is registered for people aged 60 years and over (private)

## Key strategies for safe practice

- Right person, right vaccine, right time, right dose
- Clearly label vaccines in vaccine refrigerator – keep separate
- Education – share information regarding RSV program and products, including preparation
- Report to the Australian Immunisation Register

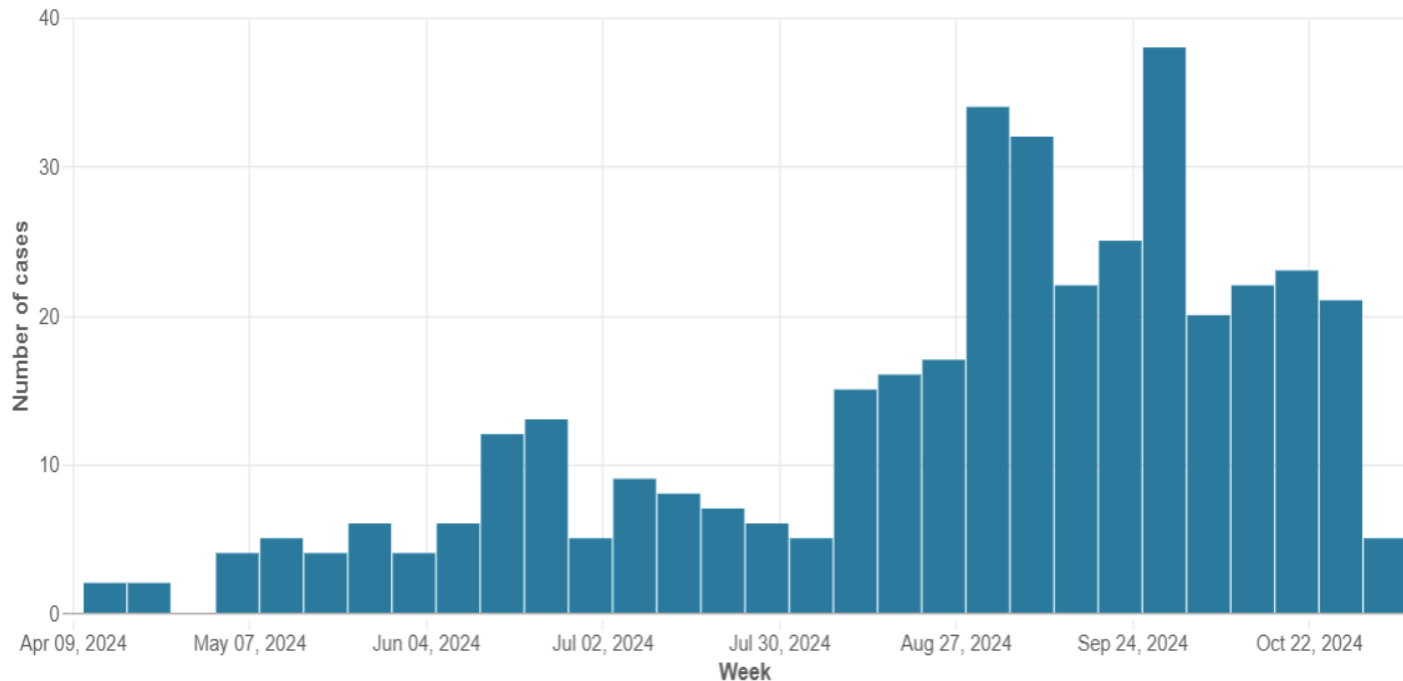
## Report adverse events following immunisation

- Report AEFI and vaccine administration error to [SAEFVIC](#), Victoria's safety surveillance partner
- Requirement for Open Disclosure

# Mpox – update

- Mpox cases are continuing to increase in Melbourne and regional Victoria. [CHO alert 18 October](#)
- Have a low threshold for testing sexually active people with any symptoms.
- Promote vaccination in all [eligible people](#) at risk of mpox infection.
- [Better Health Channel – Mpox Immunisation providers](#)

Epi curve of Mpox notifications in Victoria 1 April – 22 October 2024



- 2 doses of the mpox vaccine are required for protection against severe disease and hospitalisation. (SC)
- Subcutaneous injection; given  $\geq 28$  days apart. Takes @14 for maximum protection.
- Check GBMSM have had both doses of vaccine; encourage vaccination for those at risk.
- Mpox is not currently recommended as a travel vaccine, unless already eligible per Victorian and ATAGI guidelines.
- Vaccine can be ordered by GPs via Onelink online or patients can access through local mpox immunisation providers.

# Japanese encephalitis

The Victorian Japanese encephalitis (JE) vaccination program has been expanded to include four additional local [government](#) areas (LGAs): **Alphine** (1), **Macedon Ranges** (2), **Mansfield** (3) and **Mitchell** (4) on **1 November 2024**.

Program eligibility criteria and resources:

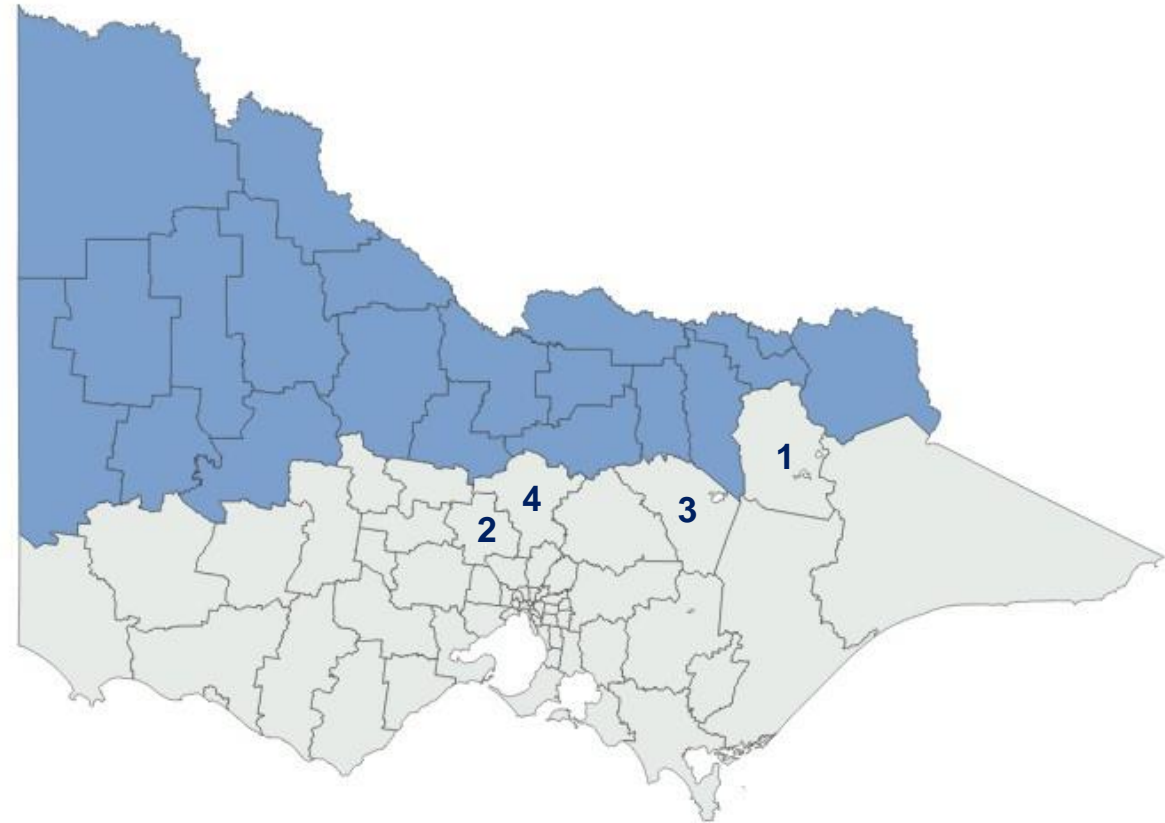
- available at the [Department of Health Japanese encephalitis virus website](#).

Providers are advised to:

- **promote** and offer JE vaccination to eligible people
- **incorporate** JE vaccine stock on hand as part of the monthly vaccine ordering processes
- **comply** with the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) requirement for reporting JE vaccinations.
- **provide** practical advice on ways to reduce risk of being bitten by mosquitos

Vaccine ordering:

- order via [Onelink Online portal](#) as part of your monthly order
- vaccine order limits are in place. Providers requiring additional stock that exceeds the current ordering limit to contact the Immunisation Program [immunisation@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) **BEFORE** submitting an order.



# Tips – frequently asked questions

## Eligibility

Catch-up vaccines are free under the [NIP](#) for eligible people up to 20 years of age, except for the HPV vaccine which is available free up to 26 years, and people of all ages with specified medical risk conditions.

[Refugees and humanitarian entrants](#) of any age are eligible for free NIP catch-up vaccines.

Additional vaccines are free under the [Victorian Immunisation schedule](#) for eligible people aged  $\geq 20$  years.

## Resources

The Australian Immunisation Handbook contains an interactive [catch-up calculator](#) for vaccines on the National Immunisation Program (NIP). This tool will help you to plan appropriate catch-up schedules for **people up to 20 years of age**.

Follow the clinical guidance contained within the [Australian Immunisation Handbook \(Handbook\)](#); check minimum intervals.

Victorian Department of Health - [Catch-up vaccination | health.vic.gov.au](#)

NCIRS [Recommended sites for childhood vaccination\\_web.pdf](#) ([ncirs.org.au](#))

**Recommended sites for childhood vaccination**

This resource details vaccines listed and funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule and additional vaccines funded by relevant states and territories. Refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook (AIBH), the NIP schedule and the NCIRS Immunisation schedules for other vaccines recommended but not funded by the NIP.

Age	Vaccines	Notes
3 MONTHS	Infanrix Hexa® (IM) or Vaxelle® (IM) Bexsero® (IM)	First Nations children (all states and territories) All children (SA and Qld only)
3 MONTHS	Rotarix® (ORAL) Prevenar 13® (IM)	Age limit for dose 1 is 0-14 weeks
4 MONTHS	Infanrix Hexa® (IM) or Vaxelle® (IM) Bexsero® (IM)	First Nations children (all states and territories) All children (SA and Qld only)
4 MONTHS	Rotarix® (ORAL) Prevenar 13® (IM)	Age limit for dose 2 is 0-14 weeks
6 MONTHS	Infanrix Hexa® (IM) or Vaxelle® (IM) Bexsero® (IM)	First Nations children with specified medical risk conditions
6 MONTHS	Prevenar 13® (IM) Annual influenza vaccine (IM)	Children with specified medical risk conditions and First Nations children (SA, NT, SA, Qld) Influenza vaccine annually from 6 months of age
12 MONTHS	Wimmerix® (IM) Bexsero® (IM) Annual influenza vaccine (IM)	First Nations children (all states and territories) All children (SA and Qld only) Influenza vaccine annually from 6 months of age. Administer in arm. If two other vaccines are given in arm, use leg.
12 MONTHS	Prevenar 13® (IM) M-M-R II (IM or SC) or Prioris® (IM or SC) N-B-Vax II (IM) or Engerix-B® paediatric (IM)	Children with specified medical risk conditions and First Nations children (SA, NT, SA, Qld) Influenza vaccine annually from 6 months of age. Administer in arm. If two other vaccines are given in arm, use leg.
18 MONTHS	Act-HIB® (IM) Infanrix® (IM) or Tripace® (IM)	First Nations children only (SA, NT, SA, Qld)
18 MONTHS	Prioris-Tetra® (IM or SC) Vaxta® Paediatric (IM) Annual influenza vaccine (IM)	First Nations children only (SA, NT, SA, Qld) Influenza vaccine annually from 6 months of age. Administer in left arm. If two other vaccines are given in arm, use leg.
4 YEARS	Infanrix® IPV (IM) or Quadratec® (IM) Annual influenza vaccine (IM)	First Nations children only (SA, NT, SA, Qld) Influenza vaccine annually from 6 months of age. Administer in arm. If only two vaccines administered, use alternate arm.
4 YEARS	Vaxta® Paediatric (IM) Pneumovax 23® (IM or SC)	First Nations children only (SA, NT, SA, Qld) Children with specified medical risk conditions and First Nations children (SA, NT, SA, Qld)

**Checklist**

- ✓ Ensure a detailed kit available
- ✓ Ensure cold chain management maintained
- ✓ Follow pre-vaccination checklist
- ✓ Identify all medically at-risk children and First Nations children
- ✓ Check child's immunisation history or Australian Immunisation Register
- ✓ Check vaccines requiring reconstitution
- ✓ Check correct vaccine for age
- ✓ Provide post-vaccination advice

**Clinical advice**

Seasonal influenza vaccination is recommended annually at any time from 6 months of age.

Administer influenza vaccine based on registered age group.

Children aged 6 months to <9 years receiving influenza vaccination for the first time are recommended 2 doses, 4 weeks apart.

Ensure a distance of 2.5 cm between injections in the same muscle.

If the deltoid muscle mass is inadequate, give the first recombinant vaccine (e.g. MMR) in the anterolateral thigh.

Meningococcal ACWY and Meningococcal B vaccines are recommended and funded for children with certain at-risk conditions. Refer to the AIBH for age-appropriate vaccines and timing schedules.

Children aged <2 years are recommended to receive pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine with every dose of Rotarix®.

# Resources

## Clinical Support

### [Royal Children's Hospital Immunisation Service](#)

Tel: 1300 882 924

Option 2 for general advice

### [Monash Immunisation Service](#)

Tel: (03) 9594 6320 or 1300 882 924

Option 5

## Specialist clinics

### [Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne:](#)

Specialist Immunisation Clinic including Telehealth

Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm

(except Public Holidays)

Tel: 1300 882 924 Option 3

### [Monash Medical Centre](#) (all ages):

Specialist Immunisation Clinic including Telehealth

Monday to Friday 8:30am – 3.45pm

(except Public Holidays)

Tel: 1300 882 924 Option 5

## SAEFVIC

Victoria's vaccine safety surveillance partner

[SAEFVIC website](#) 24/7.

Tel: 1300 882 924 Option 1 (Monday - Friday 10am - 2pm, except Public Holidays.)



# More information

**Immunisation program** : [immunisation@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au)

- general immunisation enquiries
- report a Cold Chain Breach
- vaccine Operations Team

## Subscribe

- monthly immunisation newsletter <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/subscribe> for clinical updates and guidance on the National and State Immunisation Programs
- Public health alerts <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/news-and-events/cho-health-advisory-alerts> including heat/storm alerts that may impact vaccine Cold Chain Management

## Clinical guidance

- Immunisation Program <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation>
- Infectious diseases: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases-guidelines-and-advice>

To receive this presentation in another format [email Immunisation Program](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.

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