



Vaccine Update 489 – Polio detected in Perth wastewater, Asia Pacific Social Marketing Conference

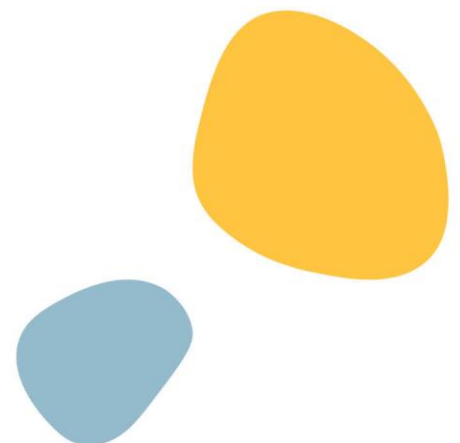
Polio virus detected in Perth wastewater

Vaccine-derived poliovirus has been [detected in wastewater](#) during routine surveillance of untreated sewage at a treatment plant in Perth. This is an environmental detection and the risk to the community remains very low. There are no confirmed cases of polio in Australia. High vaccination coverage provides strong protection and helps prevent the virus from spreading.

In response to this detection, the WA Department of Health is increasing the frequency of wastewater poliovirus testing in the Perth metropolitan area and working with clinicians to enhance existing systems for detecting polio in WA hospitals. This detection [reinforces](#) the effectiveness of Australia's robust disease surveillance and monitoring systems. While Western Australia remains polio-free and vaccination coverage for polio is [high](#), this detection serves as a reminder for everyone to check they are up to date with routine vaccines and for immunisation providers to recall patients who are not fully vaccinated given vaccination is the only way to protect against polio.

Polio vaccination is included the routine [childhood immunisation schedule](#) and is free under the [National Immunisation Program](#) for children aged:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months and



- 4 years

Children under 10 years of age should receive a total of 4 doses, given at least 4 weeks apart. If the third dose is given at older than 4 years of age, then only 3 total doses are required. Children aged 10 years and older require a total of 3 doses, with a minimum interval of 4 weeks between each dose.

Free catch-up vaccination is also available for eligible people under 20 years, and refugees and other humanitarian entrants of any age.

For more information see the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) recommendations.

Introduction of Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) due and overdue rules for influenza

The AIR has introduced [annual due and overdue rules](#) for influenza vaccines. If an influenza vaccine has not been administered since 1 March of the current year, a dose is due on 1 May and overdue on 1 June for influenza vaccines.

These changes will help vaccination providers identify individuals who may be eligible for free influenza vaccines under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#). The AIR will send overdue reminder letters between 1 June and 30 September each year, aligning with [Australian Immunisation Handbook \(AIH\)](#) advice on the peak influenza circulation period.

The due and overdue rules will be applied each year for the following individuals who are eligible for a NIP funded influenza vaccine:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- people aged 65 years or over.

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Noting that the AIR cannot identify all specific cohorts or clinical scenarios where an individual may be eligible for a free NIP influenza vaccine, and as a result:

- some eligible individuals will not display as due for influenza in the AIR. For example, pregnant women and individuals with certain medical conditions
- individuals will only display as due for one dose per year, even where two doses are clinically recommended.

The AIR due and overdue rules are intended as a guide only. Immunisation providers should refer to the [AIH](#) and the [ATAGI Statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines](#) for the most up-to-date clinical recommendations before vaccinating.

Updates to the AIR due and overdue rules for childhood pneumococcal – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The AIR [due and overdue rules for pneumococcal](#) will be updated to align with the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#) schedule for Aboriginal children. The changes will only apply to Aboriginal children who turn six months of age from the 28 April 2026.

The AIR enhancements ensure that Aboriginal children display due in the AIR for the additional pneumococcal dose recommended at 6 months of age.

Any pneumococcal vaccine administered at 6 months of age displays under the correct schedule on the child's Immunisation History Statement (IHS).

If an Aboriginal child does not receive the additional recommended 6-month dose, it will not:

- change the child's NIP Immunisation status (they will still display as 'up-to-date').
- impact Family Assistance payments.

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Vaccination providers will be able to view when a First Nations child is due for a Pneumococcal vaccine on:

- the AIR site; and
- clinical information software that is integrated with the AIR.

Vaccination providers will be able to run due and overdue reports via the AIR site for pneumococcal vaccines, the same way they do for other NIP vaccines. This will help identify individuals who may require catch-up vaccinations.

Services Australia have published the updated [National Due and Overdue Rules for Immunisation](#).

See further details about the updates [here](#).

Asia Pacific Social Marketing Conference 2026

Invitation for submissions to the Asia Pacific Social Marketing Conference 2026 (APSMC2026), taking place at the University of Western Australia (UWA) Business School in Perth on 21-23 October, 2026 are open until 21 May, 2026.

This year's theme - Compassion, Complexity, and Change: Navigating a Polycrisis World - invites contributions that reflect on how social marketing can respond effectively and ethically in complex environments.

The 2026 conference theme foregrounds three interrelated imperatives:

- Compassion – centering care, dignity, equity, inclusion, and ethical responsibility in social change efforts.
- Complexity – recognising non-linear dynamics, power asymmetries, institutional constraints, and unintended consequences within social systems.

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- Change – advancing transformative, regenerative, and systems-level interventions, including the implications of digitalisation and artificial intelligence for social marketing practice, governance, trust, and social outcomes.

For more information:

Call for papers: <https://aasm.org.au/events/conferences/apsmc-2026/>

UWA event page: <https://www.uwa.edu.au/schools/business/events/asia-pacific-social-marketing-conference>

Submissions are to be uploaded to the conference review platform [EasyChair](#).

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