



# Vaccine Update 491 - FluMist® supply, diphtheria declared Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS), pneumococcal schedule updates, pneumococcal vaccination for adults webinar

## **FluMist® supply – Ensure your service is adequately supplied to meet demand**

Doses from the first batch are set to expire on **10 July 2026**, with the next batch of doses expiring on **16 July 2026** and the final batch expiring on **7 August 2026**. Providers are encouraged to review their current FluMist® inventory, noting the short expiration dates and place additional orders to meet patient demand, if required. Please check your stocks' expiry date, there are doses set to expire on 10 July 2026, with the next batch of doses expiring on 16 July 2026 and the final batch expiring on 7 August 2026. Ensuring sufficient FluMist® supply at your site will help ensure that all your eligible patients are able to access the product.

WA Health data shows that three quarters of the children aged 2 to 11 years who have received an influenza vaccination this season, have chosen FluMist® over the intramuscular vaccine.

For further information or assistance with ordering, providers are encouraged to contact [vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au).

## Diphtheria declared Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS)

In a statement released on 22 May 2026, Australia's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Kidd AO, declared diphtheria a Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance (CDINS).

The declaration allows for enhanced coordination across all levels of government, enabling rapid deployment of vaccines, medications and workforce support, as well as nationally coordinated surveillance and public health guidance. It follows the Commonwealth Government's [announcement](#) of \$7.2 million in funding.

There have now been [135 cases](#) of diphtheria reported in regional WA since the first case in the outbreak was notified in late December 2025, with the majority occurring among Aboriginal people in the Kimberley region. A smaller number of cases have been reported in the Pilbara and Goldfields regions. In response to the outbreak, the [WA Immunisation Schedule](#) and [WA Aboriginal Immunisation Schedule](#) have been updated to include expanded eligibility for diphtheria-containing vaccines.

Additional dTpa vaccines have been procured to support the outbreak response in the three regions and orders can be placed via [Onelink](#). **Ordering is currently limited to immunisation providers in the Kimberley, Pilbara or Goldfields regions, but will be monitored and expanded as required.** Providers can use *existing* National Immunisation Program (NIP) funded dTpa vaccines already available while awaiting delivery of outbreak-specific stock, and report this use via an [online form](#) to support replenishment from state-funded supply. Please do not order NIP vaccines specifically for this purpose.

The [Education Requirements for Immunisation Provision table](#) found on the WA Health [Immunisation education](#) page includes the education requirements for administering diphtheria-containing vaccines.

Also see the resources below for further information:

- Clinician alert-[Outbreak of diphtheria in regional WA](#)

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- [Consumer diphtheria fact sheet](#)

[Resources by Aboriginal Health Council of WA \(AHCWA\)](#)

## Adult pneumococcal schedule updates

From 1 July 2026, there will be changes to the adult pneumococcal vaccination schedule under the [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#).

### Key changes:

- From 1 July 2026, the 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (21vPCV), Capvaxive®, will be introduced on the NIP and the adult [immunisation schedule](#) updated.
- Capvaxive® will replace Prevenar 13® and Pneumovax 23® on the NIP for adults.
- Capvaxive® is recommended and free through the NIP (from 1 July) for:
  - Adults aged 65 years and over
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 25 years and over
  - Adults aged 18 years and over with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe disease.
- These changes lower the age at which people are recommended for pneumococcal vaccination, simplify the vaccine schedule, and cover more strains of the disease.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department) provides the following information on the changes to support communications:

- [Adult pneumococcal vaccination – Program advice for health professionals](#)
- [Pneumococcal vaccination – Consumer fact sheet](#)

Further information and resources will be available on the department's website the week before the program change on 1 July 2026.

Health professionals and stakeholders are encouraged to subscribe to the [email list](#) to receive the latest NIP updates

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## Vaccine ordering

- Capvaxive will be available to order from mid-June but cannot be administered until 1 July 2026.
- Prevenar 13 and Pneumovax 23 can continue to be used up to and including 30 June 2026. From 1 July only Capvaxive will be funded for adults on the NIP.

From 1 July, please dispose of any remaining Prevenar 13 and/or Pneumovax 23 that you may still have in your fridge and record as [wastage](#).

## National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) webinar: Pneumococcal vaccination for adults

Join this NCIRS webinar for a practical update on pneumococcal disease in adults and what forthcoming program changes will mean for immunisation providers. The session will cover:

- the burden of pneumococcal disease in adults
- current evidence on the safety and effectiveness of pneumococcal vaccines
- upcoming changes to the adult pneumococcal vaccination schedule and their rationale
- practical approaches to preparing for and delivering pneumococcal vaccination.

This webinar includes practical guidance to support implementation of the changes, including managing vaccine stock, minimising common errors and navigating patient questions. The webinar will be recorded and made available on the NCIRS website. Register to receive the link straight to your inbox once it's ready.

**Date:** Wednesday 24 June 2026

**Time:** 12.00–1.30 p.m. (AEST)

**Location:** Online ([register now](#))

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