

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS (JE)



March 2025

While most mosquitoes are just annoying, some also carry disease some of which can cause life-threatening illnesses.

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a rare but potentially serious infection of the central nervous system caused by the JE virus.

Mosquito-borne diseases are transmitted by mosquito bites and avoiding these, and vaccination are the most important ways to prevent mosquito-borne diseases. All mosquito-borne diseases are notifiable to the department.

<p>Japanese Encephalitis</p>	<p>The best way to prevent mosquito borne diseases – including JE is to avoid mosquito bites and to be vaccinated if you are eligible. There is limited supply and access is restricted to specific priority groups, targeted to those most at risk, including those not eligible for Medicare. The JE vaccine is safe and effective for people aged 2 months and older. Once fully vaccinated, it can take between 2 to 4 weeks to mount an effective immune response. A booster is now recommended 1 to 2 years after the primary course is completed (if eligible).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese encephalitis virus (health.vic.gov.au) • Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccination NSW 	
<p>Notifiable infectious diseases</p>	<p>Notification of an infectious disease or medical condition applies to medical practitioners and/or pathology services. Notification requirements vary depending on the severity of the infectious diseases. The link below contains information regarding the notification process for infectious diseases including mosquito-borne diseases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notifiable infectious diseases, conditions and micro-organisms health.vic.gov.au • Disease notification in NSW 	
<p>Prevention</p>	<p>Bites</p>	<p>Simple actions to prevent mosquito bites reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting time outside at dusk and in the evening when mosquitoes are likely to be about • Wearing mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin. For kids and babies, apply repellent to their clothes rather than their skin • Cover up by wearing long loose-fitting clothing • Use 'knockdown' insect spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent when outdoors • Use 'knockdown' insect spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent when outdoors.

	<p>Around your home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove stagnant water where mosquitoes can breed. • Make sure your home is mosquito proof by installing insect screens. • On holidays, make sure your accommodation is fitted with mosquito netting or screens. • Cover or overturn trailers, wheelbarrows, boats, tools and children’s toys to avoid water pooling. • Clean up your yard and remove anything that can hold water, such as unused pots, and containers or tyres • Keep lawns and gardens trimmed back to reduce the areas where mosquitoes rest.
--	---

<p>Where to find more information</p>	<p>VIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito-borne diseases health.vic.gov.au • japanese-encephalitis-vaccination-consent-form-2025.docx • japanese-encephalitis-vaccine-information-for-providers-2025.docx • japanese-encephalitis-je-vaccine-eligibility-checklist-for-the-public.docx • Department of health - e-Learning Hub VIC <p>NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito borne diseases (nsw.gov.au) • Japanese encephalitis vaccination - Japanese encephalitis virus (nsw.gov.au) • Keep mozzies away – campaign resources - Mosquito borne diseases (nsw.gov.au) <p>Commonwealth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese encephalitis The Australian Immunisation Handbook (health.gov.au) • Mosquito-borne diseases healthdirect • Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease - Better Health Channel • Mosquitoes - protect your home checklist - Better Health Channel <p>Murray PHN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese encephalitis virus - Murray PHN • Emergency preparedness resources - Murray PHN • Mosquito-borne diseases preparedness
--	---

<p>Vaccinations</p>	<p>JE is available free of charge for people in eligible local government areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 2 months or older who live or routinely work in any of the eligible local government areas AND: • Regularly spend time engaging in outdoor areas that place them at risk of mosquito bites OR • Are experiencing homelessness OR
----------------------------	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). <p>JE vaccine boosters are recommended for people 1-2 years after their primary course if they remain eligible (conditions apply)</p> <p>There are two safe and effective vaccines for JE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imojev: Live attenuated vaccine given by subcutaneous injection. Primary course is one dose. Registered for use in people aged ≥ 9 months. • JEspect / Ixiaro: Inactivated Japanese encephalitis vaccine given by intramuscular injection. Primary course is two doses. Available for use in infants and children aged ≥ 2 months, immunocompromised people, and pregnant women. <p>How to order JE vaccine in VIC:</p> <p>Victorian immunisation providers must send orders directly to the Immunisation Unit: immunisation@health.vic.gov.au with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health service name, address and Onelink account number • current JE vaccine brand stock on hand • number and brand of JE vaccine required • confirmation that client meets the JE vaccination program eligibility criteria and the clinical criteria. <p>Ordering vaccines in NSW:</p> <p>NSW Vaccine doses can be ordered through the State Vaccine Centre: https://nsw.tollhealthcare.com/ For larger orders that exceed current order restrictions, contact the local public health unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW primary-care-update-jev-february-2025.pdf
<p>Keep up-to-date with HealthPathways information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito-borne Diseases in Victoria • Notifiable Conditions in Victoria
<p>Reporting to AIR</p>	<p>All JE vaccines must be reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). It is mandatory for all vaccination providers to report to AIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the route of administration for JE vaccines (IM or sc) and • information about the vaccine type (antenatal or NIP)

For further information or support please contact your local [Quality Improvement Consultant](#), email: gpsupport@murrayphn.org.au or visit the general practice support page on our [website](#).

Document last updated 3 March 2025