

Vaccination from community pharmacy – at a glance

Q: What are the vaccines that I may be able to receive from a community pharmacy, and do I have to pay for them?

A: The answer to this question varies across the country and is controlled by the legislation of each state and territory. It also depends on your age, whether you are pregnant and your eligibility for vaccines funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP). A vaccine may be free if it is funded under the NIP or by a state or territory, but pharmacies and medical services may charge a service or consultation fee.

The following summary table is a guide to what is permissible under state and territory legislation.*

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation [^]	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy? [†]	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service? [#]
<u>Australian Capital Territory</u>	COVID-19	5 years and older	Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Hepatitis A		No	
	Hepatitis B		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for a <u>territory-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	10 years and older	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Herpes zoster (shingles); Shingrix® brand only	50 years and older		
	Influenza	5 years and older		
	Measles	5 years and older	No	Yes, for people born in 1966 and later (territory-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Mumps		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Meningococcal ACWY		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Meningococcal B		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Meningococcal C			
	Pertussis			
			Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation [^]	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy? [†]	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service? [#]
<u>Australian Capital Territory</u>	Poliomyelitis	5 years and older	No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Rubella		No	
	Tetanus		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Typhoid (intramuscular injection formulation only)		No	
	Varicella (chickenpox)		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
<u>New South Wales</u>	COVID-19	5 years and older	Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)		Yes, for post-exposure management (state-funded)	
	Hepatitis A		Yes, if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose or an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis B			
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	9 years and older		
	Herpes zoster (shingles); Shingrix [®] brand only	18 years and older	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Influenza	5 years and older		
	Japanese encephalitis		Yes, if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose	
	Measles		Yes, for people born during or after 1966 and rubella seronegative post-natal women (state-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal ACWY			
	Meningococcal B			
	Meningococcal C			
	Mumps			
	Pertussis			
	Poliomyelitis			
	Rubella		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation [^]	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy? [†]	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service? [#]
<u>New South Wales</u>	Tetanus	5 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Typhoid (intramuscular injection formulation only)		No	
	Varicella (chickenpox)		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
<u>Northern Territory</u>	COVID-19	5 years and older	Yes , COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Influenza		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) acellular combination		Yes , for people born in 1966 and later (territory-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type B (Hib)		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis A		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis B		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Herpes zoster (shingles) [%]		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal ACWY		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal B		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Pneumococcal		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Poliomyelitis		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Varicella (chickenpox)		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation^	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy?†	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service?#
<u>Queensland</u>	COVID-19	Ages <u>recommended</u> in the Australian Immunisation Handbook	Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Influenza		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Diphtheria	2 years and older	No	
	Cholera		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)			
	Hepatitis A		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis B			
	Herpes zoster (shingles)%		No	Yes, for people born in 1966 and later (state-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
	Japanese encephalitis		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Measles		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	Yes, if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Meningococcal ACWY		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Meningococcal B		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Mumps		No	
	Pertussis		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Pneumococcal		No	
	Poliomyelitis		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Rubella		No	
	Tetanus		No	
	Typhoid		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
Varicella (chickenpox)				

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation ^	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy?†	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service?#
<u>South Australia</u>	COVID-19	5 years and older	Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis A		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Hepatitis B		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Herpes zoster (shingles)%		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Influenza		Yes, if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> dose	
	Japanese encephalitis		No	Yes, for people born in 1966 and later (state-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Measles		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal ACWY		Yes, if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal B		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Meningococcal C		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Mumps		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Pertussis		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Pneumococcal		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’
	Poliomyelitis		No	
Rubella	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’			
Tetanus	No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’		
Varicella (chickenpox)	No			

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation^	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy?†	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service?#
Tasmania	COVID-19	10 years and older (5 years and older if completed a paediatric component of study)	Yes, COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)	10 years and older	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Hepatitis A		No	
	Hepatitis B		Yes, if you meet any condition for a state-funded or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Herpes zoster (shingles); Shingrix® brand only	18 years and older		
	Influenza	10 years and older (5 years and older if completed a paediatric component of study)		
	Japanese encephalitis (prescription required)	10 years and older	No	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		Yes, for people born in 1966 and later (state-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Meningococcal ACWY		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Meningococcal B		No	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Pneumococcal		Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Poliomyelitis		No	
	Rabies (prescription required)			
	Typhoid (prescription required)			
Varicella (chickenpox)	Yes, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'			

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation [^]	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy? [†]	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service? [#]
<u>Victoria^{^^}</u>	COVID-19	Ages <u>recommended</u> in the Australian Immunisation Handbook	Yes , COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)	12 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
	Herpes zoster (shingles) [%]	50 years and older		
	Influenza	5 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> dose	
	Japanese encephalitis			
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)	15 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal ACWY		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Mpox (monkeypox)/smallpox/vaccinia virus	5 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> dose	
	Pneumococcal	50 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
<u>Western Australia</u>	COVID-19	5 years and older	Yes , COVID-19 vaccines are funded under emergency measures	
	Diphtheria		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Hepatitis B		Yes , if you meet any condition for a <u>state-funded</u> or NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Herpes zoster (shingles) [%]		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
	Influenza		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Measles		Yes , for people born in 1966 and later (state-funded), or if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Meningococcal		Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Mumps			
	Pertussis			
	Pneumococcal			

State/territory	Vaccines that can be administered by a pharmacist immuniser	Age permissible under state and territory legislation [^]	Is the vaccine free if I get it from a community pharmacy? [†]	Would the same vaccine be free if I were to get it from a GP, a local medical centre or an Aboriginal medical service? [#]
<u>Western Australia</u>	Poliomyelitis	5 years and older	Yes , if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to ‘NIP eligibility’	
	Rubella			
	Tetanus			
	Varicella (chickenpox)			

Notes

* This information sheet is a guide to what is permissible under state and territory legislation. Not all pharmacies will offer these services, and not all pharmacists are permitted to administer vaccines. Specified vaccines can only be administered by pharmacists who are registered to do so and who have completed specified training modules in accordance with jurisdictional standards. Some pharmacies may only offer a fee-based service and not NIP-funded vaccines. Additional requirements, such as a prescription from a medical or nurse practitioner, may be required for some vaccines, in accordance with jurisdictional standards.

[^] The ages listed in this column reflect what is permissible under state and territory legislation. They do not reflect clinically recommended ages to receive vaccination or the ages for which the relevant vaccine is registered. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for clinical guidance.

[†] Pharmacies not participating in the National Immunisation Program Vaccination in Pharmacy (NIPVIP) program may charge an administration fee. The NIPVIP program only covers administration fees for those aged 5 years and older.

[#] Vaccines may be free if they are funded on the NIP or by a state or territory; however, GPs and local medical centres may charge a consultation fee.

% Zostavax[®] vaccine contains live attenuated varicella-zoster virus and is contraindicated in immunocompromised people due to the risk of disseminated varicella disease from the Oka strain vaccine virus. Use the [Zostavax[®] screening tool](#) to determine if Zostavax[®] vaccine is contraindicated. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).

^{^^} Victoria is conducting [a statewide pilot](#) whereby participating pharmacists can administer additional vaccines including hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid and poliomyelitis.

NIP eligibility

The NIP provides free vaccines to people who meet specified conditions, as listed below:

- *Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine*: Free for people aged 4 years, people aged 12–13 years and pregnant women; free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years; free for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Hepatitis A vaccine*: Free for First Nations children (age as per the [NIP schedule](#)) in the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia
- *Hepatitis B vaccine*: Free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Haemophilus influenza type B vaccine*: Free for people with asplenia or hyposplenia, for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Human papillomavirus vaccine*: Free for adolescents aged 12–13 years, for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <25 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Influenza vaccine*: Free for people aged 6 months to <5 years and ≥65 years, First Nations people, pregnant women and people with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of influenza disease (for a full list of conditions eligible for NIP-funded influenza vaccines, refer to [ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccines in 2023](#))
- *Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine*: Free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (chickenpox) vaccine*: Free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Meningococcal ACWY vaccine*: Free for adolescents aged 14–16 years, for people with certain [medical risk conditions](#), for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Meningococcal B vaccine*: Free for people with certain [medical risk conditions](#), for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Meningococcal C vaccine*: Free for people aged ≥10 years to <15 years on catch-up schedule

- *Pneumococcal vaccine*: 13vPCV (13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine) and 23vPPV (23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine) free for certain groups of people under the NIP and [state and territory immunisation schedules](#)
- *Poliomyelitis vaccine*: Free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants
- *Zoster (shingles) vaccine*: Shingrix® brand vaccine is free for non-First Nations adults aged ≥65 years, First Nations adults aged ≥50 years and people aged ≥18 years with severe immunocompromising conditions: haematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients, solid organ transplant recipients, people with haematological malignancy and people with advanced or untreated HIV

Note: In some states and territories, the NIPVIP Program excludes the administration of some NIP funded catch-up doses of vaccines in those under 10 years of age – specifically:

- *ACT*: Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, meningococcal ACWY
- *SA*: Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, human papillomavirus, meningococcal ACWY, meningococcal B, poliomyelitis, varicella.