Vaccination from community pharmacy – at a glance

***Q:** Which vaccines may I 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 tables are 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?#
Australian Capital Territory	COVID-19	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	Diphtheria		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)		**No**	**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 territory-funded [PDF] dose	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory-funded [PDF] or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	10 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Herpes zoster (shingles)	18 years and over		
	Influenza	2 years and over The nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine, FluMist, is registered for use in people aged 2 to under 18 years and must be administered in the pharmacy.		
	Japanese encephalitis	5 years and over	**No**	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory-funded dose
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory-funded dose	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory- 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'	
	Meningococcal B		**No**	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'

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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?#
Australian Capital Territory (cont.)	Mpox (previously monkeypox)/smallpox/vaccinia virus (JYNNEOS brand only; subcutaneous injection only; primary preventative vaccination only)	Non-pregnant people aged 16 years and over	**Yes,** if you meet any condition for a territory-funded [PDF] dose	
	Pertussis	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Pneumococcal (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine [PCV] only)	70 years and over for non-Indigenous people 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people		
	Poliomyelitis	5 years and over	**No**	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Rabies (pre-exposure prophylaxis treatment only for people who are not immunocompromised, and only by intramuscular injection)	5 years and over	**No**	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only)	60 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)	Pregnant women of all ages (including those aged less than 18 years) from 28 weeks gestation		
	Tetanus	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet certain conditions 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'
New South Wales	Cholera	5 years and over	**No**	
	COVID-19		**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) acellular combination		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)			
	Hepatitis A		**Yes**, for post-exposure management (state-funded)	
	Hepatitis B		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	

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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?#
New South Wales cont.	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	9 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Herpes zoster (shingles)	18 years and over		
	Influenza	2 years and over The nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine, FluMist, is registered for use in people aged 2 to under 18 years and must be administered in the pharmacy.	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	**Yes,** if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Japanese encephalitis	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- 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'	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Meningococcal B			
	Mpox (previously monkeypox)/smallpox/ vaccinia virus (JYNNEOS brand only; subcutaneous injection only; primary preventative vaccination only)	Non-pregnant eligible people 16 years and over; only in pharmacy settings that are authorised vaccination settings under the NSW Health State-wide Protocol for the Supply and Administration of JYNNEOS Vaccine	**Yes,** if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose	
	Pneumococcal	18 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Poliomyelitis	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'
	Rabies (pre-exposure prophylaxis treatment only for people who are not immunocompromised, and only by intramuscular injection)		**No** (please note rabies vaccine is ordered via Public Health Units and provided free as post-exposure treatment via GPs and hospitals)	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only)	Arexvy only for 50 years and over Abrysvo for 60 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)	Pregnant women of all ages (including those aged less than 18 years) from 28 weeks gestation		
	Typhoid (oral and intramuscular injection formulation)	5 years and over	**No**	
	Varicella (chickenpox)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or 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?#
Northern Territory	COVID-19	2 years and over	**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	Diphtheria		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)			
	Hepatitis A			
	Hepatitis B		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory-funded [PDF] 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			
	Japanese encephalitis		**No**	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a territory- 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'	
	Meningococcal B		**Yes,** if you meet any condition for a territory- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Pneumococcal		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Poliomyelitis			
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)			
	Rotavirus			
	Tetanus			
	Varicella (chickenpox)			

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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?#
Queensland	Queensland legislation allows pharmacists to administer vaccines in accordance with 'as-of-right' authorisation. Under the Medicines Poisons (Medicines) Regulation 2021, a pharmacist who has received appropriate training may administer any vaccine to individuals of any age, provided it is in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook and their own personal scope of practice. Pharmacist administration of certain vaccines is also restricted by other (non-legislative) layers of policy or regulation; for example, yellow fever vaccine can only be administered by an approved yellow fever provider.		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
South Australia	South Australian legislation allows pharmacists to work to a scope of practice model. Under regulation 18(3a) of the *Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011*, a pharmacist who has received appropriate training may administer any vaccine to individuals of any age, provided it is in accordance with the Australian Immunisation Handbook and their own personal scope of practice. Pharmacist administration of certain vaccines is also restricted by other (non-legislative) layers of policy or regulation; for example, yellow fever vaccine can only be administered by an approved yellow fever provider.		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
Tasmania	Cholera (prescription required; must be administered in the pharmacy)	5 years and over	**No**	
	COVID-19		**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)			
	Hepatitis A		**No**	
	Hepatitis B	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	9 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Herpes zoster (shingles); Shingrix brand only	18 years and over		
	Influenza	2 years and over The nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine, FluMist, is registered for use in people aged 2 to under 18 years and must be administered in the pharmacy by an Authorised Immuniser.		
	Japanese encephalitis (prescription required)	5 years and over	**No**	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or 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?#
Tasmania cont.	Meningococcal ACWY	5 years and over	**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			
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only)	Arexvy only for 50 years and over Abrysvo for 60 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)	Pregnant women aged 18 years and over from 28 weeks gestation		
	Rabies (prescription required; pre-exposure prophylaxis treatment only)	5 years and over	**No**	
	Typhoid (prescription required; limited to parenteral monovalent typhoid vaccine [Typhim Vi®] for occupational health indications; only in specified locations and with specific approval from the Department of Health)			
	Varicella (chickenpox)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
Victoria	COVID-19	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Human papillomavirus (HPV)			
	Herpes zoster (shingles)			
	Influenza			
	Japanese encephalitis		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- 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 (previously monkeypox)/ smallpox/vaccinia virus (JYNNEOS brand only)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state-funded dose	

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?#
Victoria cont.	Pneumococcal	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
Western Australia	COVID-19	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you are eligible for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'.	
	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 state- 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	2 years and over The nasal spray live attenuated influenza vaccine, FluMist is registered for use in people aged 2 to under 18 years and must be administered in the pharmacy.	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR)	5 years and over	**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Meningococcal		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Pertussis		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Pneumococcal			
	Poliomyelitis			
	Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Arexvy and Abrysvo brands only) (Pregnant women can receive **Abrysvo only**)		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for a state [PDF]- or NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Tetanus		**Yes**, if you meet any condition for an NIP-funded dose – refer to 'NIP eligibility'	
	Varicella (chickenpox)			

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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 over.

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.

NIP eligibility

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

- *COVID-19 vaccine:* Free for all adults aged 75 years and over (2 funded doses per year), adults aged 65–74 years (one funded dose per year), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50–74 years (one funded dose per year), adults aged 18–64 years with severe immunocompromise (one funded dose per year).
- *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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 <5 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 <26 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants.
- *Influenza vaccine:*
    - *inactivated influenza vaccines:* Free for people aged 6 months to <5 years and ≥65 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 2026)
    - *live attenuated influenza vaccine (FluMist):* Not NIP-funded and only available for free for eligible children in some states.
- *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 children aged 12 months (Nimenrix), adolescents aged 14–16 years (MenQuadfi), for people with certain medical risk conditions (inherited defects or deficiency of properdin or complement components, current or future treatment with eculizumab, functional or anatomical asplenia), for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants of any age.
- *Meningococcal B vaccine:* Free for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with certain medical risk conditions (inherited defects or deficiency of properdin or complement components; current or future treatment with eculizumab; functional or anatomical asplenia; HIV, regardless of disease stage or CD4+ cell count; haematopoietic stem cell transplant), all non-Indigenous people with certain risk conditions (inherited defects or deficiency of properdin or complement components, current or future treatment with eculizumab, functional or anatomical asplenia), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants from 6 weeks of age (with a catch-up program for infants and young children aged less than 2 years), and for all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants of any age.
- *Pneumococcal vaccine:* 21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (21vPCV) for adults aged 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 25 years and over and adults aged 18 years and over with specified medical risk conditions that increase their risk of severe disease. 20vPCV free for non-Indigenous children without risk conditions aged <5 years (including catch-up), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with risk conditions aged <18 years.
- *Poliomyelitis vaccine:* Free for catch-up of missed doses for all people aged <20 years, all adult refugees and other humanitarian entrants.
- *Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV): Abrysvo is* free for pregnant women of all ages (including those aged less than 18 years) from 28 weeks gestation. Arexvy is free for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged ≥60 years and all other adults aged ≥75 years.
- *Zoster (shingles) vaccine:* Shingrix brand vaccine is free for non-Indigenous adults aged ≥65 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged ≥50 years and people aged ≥18 years with certain severe immunocompromising conditions – see Table. Risk conditions and immunosuppressive therapies for zoster vaccination and eligibility for NIP funding.

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