



Community pharmacy expansion of immunisation services

Information for community pharmacies

22 November 2022

Key messages

- From 22 November 2022, community pharmacists will be able to order and provide additional government-funded vaccines, specifically human papillomavirus (HPV), diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa), meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) to adolescents, and measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) to eligible adults.
- Pharmacists will need to adhere to all conditions in the relevant Structured Administration Supply Arrangement (SASA).
- Pharmacists will be able to provide vaccinations for adolescents who have missed vaccination through their usual School-Based Immunisation Program (SBIP).
- Government-funded vaccines are available to order through the Onelink online ordering system.
- All vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

Pharmacy expansion of government-funded vaccines

- From 22 November 2022, participating community pharmacists in Western Australia will be able to order the following government-funded vaccines from Onelink:
 - **adolescent vaccines:** including HPV, dTpa and menACWY
 - **adult vaccine:** MMR vaccine for persons born after 1965 who have had less than two doses.
- This expansion follows the provision of government-funded influenza vaccines to persons aged 5 years and above in April 2022.
- For further information on the provision of these vaccines, see the [WA Immunisation Schedule](#).
- SBIP is the primary provider of adolescent vaccinations in schools across the state.
- [Community pharmacists](#) will now be able to support SBIP by providing vaccinations where adolescents have missed their routine and recommended vaccines in school e.g. absent on the day that SBIP teams visited their schools.
- Immunisation providers must [report](#) all vaccinations administered to the AIR, including National Immunisation Program (NIP), COVID-19, influenza, and private vaccines.
- As vaccines can be administered by a variety of immunisation providers, e.g. SBIP, general practice or Aboriginal Medical Services, it is imperative that community pharmacists check the AIR prior to administering any vaccine. This is to ensure that the individual has not already received the vaccine through another immunisation provider.

Authority to administer vaccinations

The Structured Administration Supply Arrangements (SASA) provide details outlining the authority to vaccinate. All community pharmacists administering government-funded vaccines need to be familiar with and adhere to the conditions within the SASA – ‘Administration of vaccines by Pharmacists’, found [on the Department of Health website](#) under the CEO of Health SASA accordion.

Ordering and storing vaccines

- To order any government-funded vaccines, including those in this program, community pharmacists must comply with all [Strive for 5](#) and [WA Health cold chain management](#) requirements. These requirements supersede any other cold chain guidelines used by community pharmacies.
- Log in at [Onelink \(external site\)](#)
- Initially up to five doses of vaccines can be ordered and order limits will apply to all vaccines after the initial order. These will be clearly noted on the ordering form.
- If you need more doses than what is permitted, please email vaccineorders@health.wa.gov.au.
- For subsequent orders, plan vaccine stock for one fortnight of use.
- Orders are delivered Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm. Any delivery instructions should be entered in the 'Delivery instructions' field.
- You must read and accept the terms and conditions before confirming your order.
- Once your order is accepted, confirmation is sent to the email registered to the account. Tracking updates will also be sent when they are available.
- Orders can take up to 3 business days for processing and delivery. Deliveries to country areas are not made on Mondays or Fridays, and may take extra time after long weekends or public holidays.
- Vaccines should be stored between + 2°C and + 8°C and in their original packaging to protect them from light and temperature changes, in accordance with the [National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'](#).

Reporting cold chain breaches and vaccine wastage

- As a condition of receiving government-funded vaccines, all excursions outside of 2° and 8°C must be reported to the Department of Health following the WA cold chain protocol, available at [Cold Chain Management](#).
- Providers must advise their [Public Health Unit](#) when a cold chain breach occurs.
- [Public Health Unit](#) also provide thermal stability advice in the event of other incidents where government-funded vaccines are involved.
- Please follow the instructions provided on the WA Department of Health [Vaccine Ordering web page](#) (see 'Report cold chain breaches or expiry').

Keep up to date with current information

- [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [WA Immunisation Schedule](#)
- [Immunisation Provider Information and Resources](#)
- [Pharmacist immunisers](#)
- Subscribe to [Vaccine Updates](#) to receive updates straight to your inbox.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting Western Australians against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Ms Lara Jackson
A/Manager, Immunisation Program
Department of Health

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