



# **Community Engagement Noticeboard**

# Local outbreak of measles in Victoria

There is an active outbreak of measles in Victoria after two new cases were reported in Melbourne. These cases have no history of overseas travel or known contact with other measles cases. These two new cases suggest local transmission of measles in Melbourne.

Measles is a viral illness that spreads easily. It often causes a rash and a fever and sometimes causes serious illness. It can be prevented through vaccination.

Your best protection is to have received two MMR vaccines, at least four weeks apart. Talk to your GP if you're born after 1965 and have not had TWO measles vaccines. Vaccines are free.



#### For more information on measles and vaccination:

- Western Public Health Unit Local outbreak of measles in Victoria
- Better Health Channel Measles
- Victorian Department of Health Health Alert



### Free mpox vaccination available

The mpox vaccine is available for free in Vicotria to eligible people at Sexual Health Clinics, GPs, Aboriginal Health Services, public hospitals, community pharmacies, and some local councils.

To find a local provider, visit the <u>Better Health Channel - Mpox immunisation</u> providers or contact these clinics:

- Thorne Harbour Health
- Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
- Prahran Market Clinic
- Northside Clinic
- Collins Street Medical Centre
- Sexual Health Victoria

For more information on mpox vaccination and symptoms, visit: <u>Western Public Health Unit - Mpox</u>

Visit <u>Aysha Buffet's</u> Instagram for an important message about the ongoing mpox outbreak in Victoria.





# Free vaccination against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) for pregnant people

<u>Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)</u> is a common cause of respiratory infections that affects all people, although infants are most at risk for serious illness. It is the main cause of hospital visits and breathing issues in babies.

The Western Public Health Unit strongly recommends pregnant people get the new maternal <u>RSV vaccine</u> to protect their babies from RSV after birth. The vaccine is free and administered between 28 and 36 weeks of pregnancy through:

- local general practices
- · community health or local council clinics in some areas
- · Aboriginal community health services
- pharmacies.

Infants who are at a higher risk for severe RSV will be eligible for the free RSV immunisation during the 2025 winter season.

To learn more about the immunisation program speak to your GP or Maternal Health Nurse or visit:

- Better Health Channel RSV
- <u>Victorian Department of Health Mother and Infant Protection Program</u>



# Talk about your health with a friendly Educator who speaks your language

The Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH) is offering free health education sessions for women from multicultural backgrounds.

Learn online or in person about:

- · contraception options
- safer sex
- understanding menopause
- pregnancy choices.

To explore other health education topics delivered by MCWH, visit: MCWH Health Education Program



Send an email to: <u>WPHU@wh.org.au</u> with the subject 'Subscribe to Community Engagement Noticeboard' if you would like to receive this Noticeboard.





# Don't let the vape cloud your judgement

The *Koori Way* is a statewide population health promotion campaign co-designed and led by multiple Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations across Victoria.

The 2025 anti-vaping campaign, *"Flip the Vape,"* has begun in Victoria for First Nation/Koori Victorians.

Vapes haven't been around for long, so we don't know all the long-term health effects yet. But we do know that vaping changes the way our lungs work, lowers immunity, may increase the risk of heart attack, and can impact fertility. Vaping is also highly addictive and can change young ones' lives forever.

<u>Flip the Vape - The Koori Way</u> is a resource by Mob for Mob to support quitting smoking and vaping for good.





Quitting support is available now through **Quitline for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities** on 13 7848 or **VAHS** on 03 9419 3000.



# **Raising awareness of Hepatitis B in the west**

The Western Public Health Unit (WPHU) has been working with the <u>Doherty Institute</u> to engage communities and raise awareness about Hepatitis B prevention in partnership with the <u>Centre for Ethnicity and Health</u> and <u>LiverWELL</u>.

Together, the partnership delivered four education sessions reaching over 80 community members in late 2024.

If you or your community are interested in learning more or want to book a session, please contact Maryaan Essa, Community Engagement Officer at WPHU via <u>Maryaan.Essa@wh.org.au</u>





## Free INFANT facilitator training - registrations now open

#### Upcoming training dates: 17 March - 9 May 2025

Join the course to learn about the <u>INFANT</u> <u>program</u>, including its content, facilitation and implementation within your community.

This course equips participants with the latest evidence on healthy eating and active play in the early years of life. It is ideal for training program facilitators and serves as valuable professional development for anyone who works with families with young children.

**Free** online training is currently offered in Victoria until May 2025 [usually \$847 AUD (ex GST)].

To sign up for INFANT training, scan the QR code



For any enquiries, please contact Ayesha Maharaj, WPHU Population Health Promotion Officer via ayeshamaharaj@wh.org.au



