



# Information kit for schools and camps

## How to use this kit

This kit includes information for schools and camp operators about protection against mosquito-borne diseases such as Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV).

JEV is spread only through bites from infected mosquitoes.

Many camps take place around waterways where mosquitoes like to breed, so it's important to encourage teachers, volunteers and students to take simple steps to avoid mosquito bites.

Schools, camp-coordinators and camp venues can share information about mosquito protection by:

- Including information in staff and parent newsletters or in camp information packs (see example content below)
- Publishing social media posts (see example content below)
- Distributing or displaying resources such as posters or information cards (see link below).

## Key information

- Human cases of JEV have been detected in five states and territories - New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, the Northern Territory, and South Australia.
- JEV has been detected in piggeries in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, and in feral pigs in parts of Queensland, the Northern Territory and Victoria.
- A small number of people have died of JEV in Australia during the current outbreak.
- JEV is a mosquito-borne flavivirus, and belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever, Murray Valley encephalitis and West Nile/Kunjin viruses.
- JEV is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes.
  - The virus does not spread between humans.
  - Animals such as pigs and horses cannot directly pass the virus to humans.
- Information on JEV can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](#).



## Newsletter or website article

*(Note: this can be adapted to suit your school or camp and include any specific details)*

### Protect yourself from mosquitoes on school camp

Teachers, volunteers and students are encouraged to follow simple steps to avoid mosquito bites while on school camp.

As we transition from summer to autumn the risk of catching mosquito-borne diseases, including Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), is still high because weather remains favourable for mosquito breeding.

JEV is spread to humans only through bites from infected mosquitoes.

Camp activities often take place around waterways where mosquitoes like to breed and involve many outdoor activities.

If you're going on school camp, don't forget to pack an effective insect repellent and long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.






#### **Reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito by following these simple steps:**

- apply and regularly reapply an effective insect repellent on exposed skin, such as those containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus (always follow label directions to use repellents safely)
- wear long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothes outside, especially at dusk and dawn
- ensure accommodation, including tents, is properly fitted with mosquito nets or screens on windows, doors, vents and other entrances, and
- remove or empty containers or other items such as tyres which may hold stagnant water where mosquitoes may breed around campsites.

For more information about the spread of JEV or other mosquito-borne diseases please visit the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](#).



## Social media post

Graphic	Text
	<p>Our school camps are a great opportunity for students to have fun together outside of the classroom.</p> <p>School camps are also a great opportunity for mosquitoes, especially for activities near a river or waterway.</p> <p>To make sure students are protected from mosquito bites, which can spread a range of serious diseases, including Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) to humans, remind them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Apply an effective repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus on exposed skin</li><li> Wear long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing outside, especially at dusk and dawn</li><li> Use mosquito nets on windows, doors, vents and other entrances where available.</li></ul> <p>For more information visit  <a href="https://health.gov.au/jev">health.gov.au/jev</a></p>



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care



## Resources

A suite of materials that encourages Australians to protect themselves against mosquito-borne diseases such as JEV is available on the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](#). These materials are available for you to download, print and distribute.

The poster below is available specifically for school camps.

If you would like to order free hard copies of the JEV bookmark, school camp poster, postcard or posters, please email [publichealthcomms@health.gov.au](mailto:publichealthcomms@health.gov.au) with the quantity required and delivery address.

