Shingles vaccination –   
health professionals’ kit



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# The National Immunisation Program shingles vaccine

The shingles vaccine Shingrix is available under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for the prevention of shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia. A 2-dose course is free under the NIP for eligible people most at risk of complications from shingles.

A 2-dose course of Shingrix is available for free for:

* people aged 65 years and over
* First Nations people aged 50 years and over
* immunocompromised people aged 18 years and over who are immunocompromised due to an underlying medical condition or medical treatment they are receiving. Refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/resources/tables/table-risk-conditions-and-immunosuppressive-therapies-for-zoster-vaccination-and-eligibility-for-nip-funding) for specific conditions and treatments.

Shingrix does not contain any live virus so it can be given to people aged 18 years and over who are immunocompromised.

**Vaccine supply**

Shingrix vaccine supply has been rolled-out to medical practices, Aboriginal Medical Services and pharmacies across Australia. Vaccination providers can order Shingrix through their usual vaccine ordering channels.

The resources in this kit are designed to support health professionals with conversations about the Shingrix vaccine and eligibility.

Resources include:

* Email examples
* Communication resources

# Email/newsletter example paragraphs regarding Shingrix

**We have Shingrix vaccine stock available**

[XXX practice/pharmacy] is pleased to advise that we have Shingrix vaccine stock available.

A 2-dose course of Shingrix is available free for:

* people aged 65 years and over
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over
* immunocompromised people aged 18 and over with eligible medical conditions.

Please [call us on xxx/go to platform] to book your vaccination.

For more information visit the Department of Health and Aged Care [website](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/vaccines/shingles-herpes-zoster-immunisation-service?language=en).

# Common questions

It’s natural for patients to have questions about vaccination. A [shingles fact sheet](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-shingles-vaccination-program-advice-for-health-professionals?language=en) is available on our website for further frequently asked questions and answers covering:

* [Who is eligible for free shingles vaccination](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/zoster-herpes-zoster#who)
* [Timing between getting shingles and getting the free vaccine](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/recommendations/people-who-have-had-a-previous-episode-of-herpes-zoster-can-receive-zoster-vaccine)
* [Side effects](https://www.health.gov.au/childhood-immunisation/your-questions-answered#side-effects)
* [Vaccine safety](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/zoster-herpes-zoster)

# Immunisation clinical support

There is a range of information, resources and tools available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care’s website](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support) to support clinical practice and the delivery of immunisation services. This includes:

* [The Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#the-australian-immunisation-handbook)
* [The National Immunisation Program schedule](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#the-national-immunisation-program-schedule)
* [Catch-up vaccination resources](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#catchup-vaccination-resources)
* [Reports from the Australian Immunisation Register](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#reports-from-the-australian-immunisation-register)
* [Program advice for providers](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#program-advice-for-providers)
* [Influenza vaccination resources](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#influenza-vaccination-resources)
* [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance tools, resources and services](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support#national-centre-for-immunisation-research-and-surveillance:~:text=of%20ATAGI.-,National%20Centre%20for%20Immunisation%20Research%20and%20Surveillance,-The%20NCIRS%20provides)

For more information visit [immunisation clinical support](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-information-for-health-professionals/immunisation-clinical-support).

Contacts for state and territory immunisation health services can be found [here](https://www.health.gov.au/topics/immunisation/immunisation-contacts).

# Communication resources

The table below outlines the resources available to support immunisation communication and engagement.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Resource | Preview | Link | Suggested use |
| NIP adult brochure |  | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-dl-brochure-adult-vaccinations) | Hand out to patients |
| NIP adult fact sheet |  | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-fact-sheet-adult-vaccinations) | Hand out to patients |
| Fact sheet | Cover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/shield-yourself-from-shingles-fact-sheet) | Refer patients to the fact sheet available on the website |
| Fact sheet for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Cover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources/publications/shield-yourself-from-shingles-fact-sheet-first-nations) | Refer patients to the fact sheet available on the website |
| Fact sheet for health professionals |  | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-immunisation-program-shingles-program-advice-for-vaccination-providers?language=en) |  |
| DL brochures | Cover imageCover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/shield-yourself-from-shingles-resources-collection) | Hand out to patients |
| Posters | Cover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/shield-yourself-from-shingles-resources-collection) | Hand out to patients |
| DL brochures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Cover imageCover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources) | Hand out to patients |
| Posters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Cover image | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources) | Hand out to patients |
| Videos | Video screen shot-Are you 65 or older | [Watch here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/shield-yourself-from-shingles-resources-collection?language=en) | Provide to patients |
| Videos for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Videos for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | [Watch here](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources) | Provide to patients |
| Videos for health professionals | Videos for health professionals | [Watch here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/shield-yourself-from-shingles-resources-collection?language=en) | Watch to stay up to date with the latest advice |
| Podcast: Shingles and Shingrix – Advice for health professionals | Podcast: Shingles and Shingrix – Advice for health professionals | [Listen here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/shingles-and-shingrix-advice-for-health-professionals-podcast-recording?language=en) | Listen to stay up to date with the latest advice |
| Podcast: Health professionals answer commonly asked questions about shingles and the shingles vaccine | Podcast: Health professionals answer commonly asked questions about shingles and the shingles vaccine | [Listen here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/health-professionals-answer-commonly-asked-questions-about-shingles-and-the-shingles-vaccine-podcast-recording?language=en) | Provide to patients |
| Social media tiles | Social media tiles-man Social media tiles-women | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/shield-yourself-from-shingles-resources-collection?language=en) | Post on social media |
| Social media tiles – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people | Social media tiles – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people-woman Social media tiles – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people-Man | [Download here](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources) | Post on social media |

# Sample social media posts

The table below provides sample social media posts for reminding patients they could be eligible for a free 2-dose course of Shingrix under the NIP.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Channel** | **Copy** | **Image / video** |
| **All audiences** | | |
| Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn | If you’ve had chickenpox before, you can get shingles.  Shingles is a viral infection that can be nasty; especially if you’re older or your immune system is weak.  You may be eligible for the free shingles vaccine if you’re:  ✅ aged 65 and over  ✅ an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged 50 or older  ✅ 18 and over and at increased risk of shingles due to an eligible medical condition or treatment.    For more information visit health.gov.au/shingles-vaccine | Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn - Woman tile  [Download social tile](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/shield-yourself-from-shingles-social-tile-1-first-nations?language=en) |
| X | Free #ShinglesVaccination is available for:  ✅ people 65 and over  ✅ Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people 50 and over  ✅ people 18 and over with an eligible medical condition or treatment.  For more information visit health.gov.au/shingles-vaccine |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **People aged 65 and over** | | |
| Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn | If you’re 65 or older, shield yourself from shingles.  1 in 3 people will get shingles in their lifetime, and if you had chickenpox as a child, you can get shingles.  Free shingles vaccination is available for people aged 65 and over. The vaccine shields you from shingles and its complications.  For more information visit health.gov.au/shingles-vaccine | **Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn - Man**  [Download social tile](https://www.health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles/resources/publications/shield-yourself-from-shingles-social-tile-3?language=en) |
| X | Are you aged 65 or older? #ShieldYourselfFromShingles  Free #shingles vaccination is available for people aged 65 and over.  For more information visit health.gov.au/shingles-vaccine |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over** | | |
| Facebook / Instagram / LinkedIn | You need 2 doses of the shingles vaccine for the best protection.  You can get the second dose 2-6 months after your first dose.  The free shingles vaccine is available under the National Immunisation Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 and over.  For more information visit [health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles](http://health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3N8GyQBGAx2bKK-Qyx4Jw9rH7TLiyFstiZnsdCcH9zhT-ZGiw_-m6DMh4_aem_h-KWm3HLV5PBScj3x-ak_w) | The photo features Uncle Colin from Mununjali Country. The text behind him reads, ‘Shield yourself from shingles’.  [Download social tile](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/shield-yourself-from-shingles-social-tile-3-first-nations?language=en) |
| X | You need 2 doses of the #ShinglesVaccine for the best protection.  It’s free under the National Immunisation Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 and over.  For more information visit [health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles](http://health.gov.au/shield-yourself-from-shingles?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3N8GyQBGAx2bKK-Qyx4Jw9rH7TLiyFstiZnsdCcH9zhT-ZGiw_-m6DMh4_aem_h-KWm3HLV5PBScj3x-ak_w) |