



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Privacy Policy

## Reporting adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)

## Contents

About this privacy policy	2
What this policy is about	2
Changes to this policy	2
Information to be collected about you	2
Registering to SAFEVAC	2
Reporting an AEFI	2
How your personal information is used	3
How your personal information is stored	3
How long your information is kept	3
Other use, disclosure and storage of your information	3
Your other rights	4

## About this privacy policy

The medical or nurse practitioner who becomes aware of an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI) has a statutory responsibility to notify WA Health within 72 hours of diagnosis as specified in the [Public Health Act 2016](#) and the [Public Health Regulations 2017](#).

This privacy policy relates to the personal information about members of the public who report an AEFI.

## What this policy is about

This privacy policy sets out how WA Health collects, processes, holds, discloses and uses the personal information of people who report an adverse event following immunisation (AEFI).

## Changes to this policy

WA Health may update this policy from time to time. If this policy is changed, you will be notified when you next use the reporting page. The changed policy will apply to new and amended reports from the time it is changed.

## Information to be collected about you

### Registering to SAFEVAC

Western Australian Vaccine Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) is part of the national reporting hub SAFEVAC – an Australian database for reporting of AEFI and associated clinical visits. The first time you make an AEFI report through SAFEVAC, you will be requested to enter the following mandatory details:

- Email address
- Name
- Type of reporter
- Address
- Contact phone number

### Reporting an AEFI

To report an AEFI you will be requested to enter the following mandatory details:

- Name
- Gender
- Whether you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- Address
- Information about the vaccine/s received, including vaccination date, time, vaccine name and dose
- Details of the AEFI including a description of the event, treatment (if any) and outcome

You will be asked to give your consent for your local public health unit or specialist immunisation clinic to contact you, with the option to decline to be contacted regarding your report.

You can download a copy of your report for your records.

You will receive email notification of receipt of the report using the email provided upon registration.

## How your personal information is used

Information collected from the report may be:

- Provided to a clinician for assessment;
- Investigated for any potential vaccine or immunisation system problems;
- Forwarded to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) who closely monitor and assess vaccine safety in Australia;
- Combined with information from other reports, and the combined, de-identified information made available as vaccine safety data for the general public, immunisation policy makers, national vaccine surveillance networks and researchers of ethically approved studies.

Your personal information is not sold or shared for commercial purposes.

If you have consented, and depending on the severity of your reaction, you may be contacted by WAVSS staff to obtain further details regarding your report.

## How your personal information is stored

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) host the SAFEVAC database. **MCRI**, working under an agreement with **WA Health**, manages the storage of your information. MCRI stores all personal information in secure environments and performs regular security testing of its systems. MCRI only access WA data for the purposes of support and maintenance of the database. See the [MCRI Privacy Policy](#) for further detail about how MCRI stores your personal information.

**WA Health** manages the access to your information. No other jurisdiction can access your personal information without permission from WA Health.

**WA Health** assures you that:

- Your information will be stored in Australia;
- WA Health does not have access to, nor does it use, your information for any purpose other than the purposes outlined in this policy (or as required by law).

Western Australia has laws to prevent unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal information to the greatest extent possible.

## How long your information is kept

**WA Health** ensures your information will be kept in accordance with the [Information Retention and Disposal Policy](#) including the [Patient Information Retention and Disposal Schedule](#).

WA Health intends to maintain and preserve all records that have been digitised or are born digital. This includes ensuring all records are accessible for as long as they are required under the Schedule, as well as ensuring that digital and born digital records are migrated and preserved across systems to retain the integrity and authenticity of the records.

## Other use, disclosure and storage of your information

Information collected may be disclosed, and used:

- As specified in the [Public Health Act 2016](#) and the [Public Health Regulations 2017](#);
- By WA Health's other service providers for the purpose of assisting WA Health to monitor vaccine safety.

## Your other rights

**Correcting your personal information.** If you believe that personal information that is held about you in connection with an AEFI report is incorrect, incomplete or out-of-date, please contact WAVSS at [wavss@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:wavss@health.wa.gov.au).

**Complaints.** If you have any enquiries or complaints regarding this privacy policy or the way your personal information is handled, please contact WA Health via this [link](#).

**Contact.** For all enquiries relating to reporting an AEFI, please contact WAVSS at [wavss@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:wavss@health.wa.gov.au).

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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