

Information pack


Secondary School Immunisations 2024

OFFICIAL

The purpose of this information pack is to support Victorian secondary schools to communicate to parents and carers as well as secondary school students on the importance of receiving their immunisations, as part of the Secondary School Immunisations Program (SSIP).

The [Victorian Department of Health Immunisation Unit website](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/information-for-local-councils) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/information-for-local-councils>> provides resources to deliver the SSIP including information for students who may need to complete their adolescent vaccinations due to missed vaccines.

Students can also learn about the immunisations they need and why these are important on the [Victorian Department of Health Better Health Channel website](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools#immunisation-for-secondary-school-students-is-important) <<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools#immunisation-for-secondary-school-students-is-important>>.

Post text	Accompanying asset (use attached jpeg)
<p>Immunisation protects people from harmful diseases. If your child is aged 10 to 19, they can receive free vaccinations at school as part of the Secondary School Immunisation Program.</p> <p>Immunisations are safe and effective, and administered by a council nurse at secondary schools.</p> <p>You will be provided with information about these immunisation sessions by your child's school and must return the information providing or declining your consent.</p> <p>Your child can also receive immunisations at your GP, a local council immunisation service and in some pharmacies.</p> <p>Due to interruptions to school-based learning in 2020 and 2021, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, some students may have missed getting important vaccines at school.</p> <p>Parents and carers should advise the school and nurse of any immunisations their child has missed, and any vaccines they have received outside of school.</p> <p>Learn more about the Secondary School Immunisation Program in Victoria at: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools</p>	 An illustration with a teal background. At the top right, the text reads 'What is the Secondary School Immunisation Program?'. On the left, a large white speech bubble contains a question mark. In the center, a female nurse in a green uniform is administering a vaccine to a male student wearing a blue t-shirt and shorts. The student is sitting on a wooden stool. In the bottom left corner, there is a small logo for 'VICTORIA'.

Immunisation saves lives and is a proven and safe way to protect against diseases.

The protection provided by some childhood immunisations fades over time and needs to be boosted in adolescence.

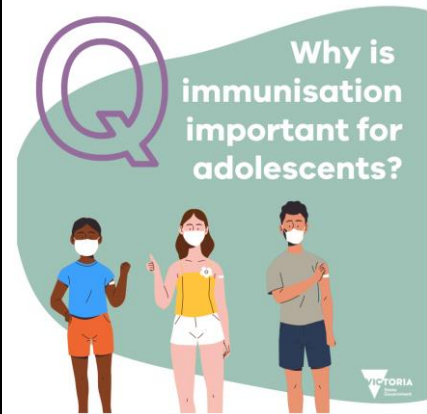
Secondary school students are at an age when some vaccines will be most effective and provide protection before possible exposure to a disease.

Making sure your child receives their secondary school immunisations will help to keep them healthy and well through secondary school and into adulthood.

Local councils provide the Secondary School Immunisation Program. For adolescents not attending school, vaccinations are available from your local GP or other immunisation provider.

Learn more:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools



Some vaccines are routinely provided free of charge to all Victorian secondary school students.

Students in Year 7 (or aged 12-13) receive the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) combined vaccine.

Students in Year 10 (or aged 15-16) receive the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Your child's school will support your local council to deliver these important immunisations, as part of the Secondary School Immunisations Program (SSIP). They will communicate with you about upcoming immunisation sessions and you will receive information which you must return to provide or decline your consent for your child to be immunised.

Learn more:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools



If you have a child in Year 7 or Year 10 at secondary school in 2024, look out for immunisation information about upcoming vaccinations via your school during first term. **(A link will be sent with the consent form attached.)**

Students who are eligible for vaccination must have completed and signed the online information provided by their parent or guardian to receive immunisations at school.

You can say no to the offer of free, school-based immunisation for children. If you wish to do so, you should still complete the online consent information.



When the information is provided, take time to talk with your child about vaccination – why it's important and how you both feel about it. If you have any questions that are not answered by the information provided, contact your local council immunisation service or your GP.

Learn more about secondary school immunisation at:
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools>

Yes. The vaccine development process is very thorough. All vaccines used in Australia are rigorously tested by the Therapeutic Goods Administration before and after they are approved.

Even once vaccines are in use they continue to be monitored for safety and effectiveness.

Immunisations are the best way to keep your child safe from harmful diseases. And when you protect your child from these diseases, you also protect others in your family and community who cannot be immunised by limiting the spread of disease.

At school-based immunisation sessions, students are vaccinated by immunisation nurses who are specially qualified to provide this service. Your local council works with your child's school to provide a safe environment for students, staff and the immunisation team.

More information:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/Immunisation-common-questions



Secondary school immunisations are usually provided to students in Year 7 and Year 10. Due to interruptions to school-based learning in 2020 and 2021, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, some students may have missed getting important vaccines at school.

If your child missed out on their school-based vaccinations last year, speak to your school, GP or local council immunisation service about how they can catch up.

To see if your child is due for any vaccines, check your child's immunisation history statement on the Australian Immunisation Register using your MyGov account. If your child is over 14 they will need to access their immunisation history statement themselves through their own MyGov account or the Medicare mobile app.

Learn more about school-based vaccinations and why they're important:

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools#immunisation-for-secondary-school-students-is-important



The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine schedule has changed from 2 doses to 1 for most people. Worldwide scientific evidence shows that 1 dose will give just as much protection as 2 doses, and protects against 90% of cervical cancers, over 95% of HPV-related cancers and over 90% of genital warts.

The eligibility age for free catch-up vaccination has also increased from 19 to 25 years of age.

For more information visit
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/human-papillomavirus-hpv-immunisation>

