

2019 Secondary School Vaccine Program

Important information for Victorian secondary schools

Secondary School Vaccinations

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and 10 students in 2019. Students will have the opportunity to receive the following:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine in Year 7
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in Year 7
- Meningococcal A,C,W,Y vaccine in Year 10

Catch-up Vaccinations

All people under 20 years of age are eligible to receive free catch-up vaccines. If students require catch-up vaccines, please advise them to speak to their immunisation provider (ie. local council or GP).

What do schools need to do?

There are two key steps for schools to action at the commencement of the school year:

- 1. Send collection statements** to parents/guardians of Year 7 and Year 10 students that informs them that their contact details will be transferred to local council unless they request otherwise.
- 2. Transfer contact details data to local council.**

Resources to guide you through the process are available at immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

This includes a data extraction tool to make the transfer of data simple, quick and secure.

Key dates in 2019 for schools

- **Week of 30 January** – distribute a *Collection Statement* to parents/guardians of all students in Year 7.
- **February** – record any objections from parents/guardians whom do not wish for their contact details to be provided to local council.
- **28 February** – transfer contact details to local council as soon as possible after census date, edited as per parent/guardian requests.

- If students' data is confirmed prior to census date, 28th February, it may be sent to councils earlier in order to assist the preparation for upcoming immunisation sessions.

What information goes to local council?

Schools provide the following basic information to local council:

- Student name, gender, date of birth, year level, class, language(s) spoken at home
- Parent/guardian names, phone numbers, email and postal addresses

The Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations (2009) authorise schools to provide the above student and parent information to local council for the purposes of delivering the Victorian Secondary School Vaccine Program.

Why do schools provide this information?

- To improve communication with parents/guardians regarding their child's vaccination needs
- To reduce the administrative burden on school staff to follow-up consent cards
- To ensure all Year 7 and 10 students are offered the opportunity to access free vaccinations at school.
- To reduce the time required by councils to manually enter data obtained from returned consent cards into their vaccination database system.

Further information for schools

The [Immune Hero](http://immunehero.health.vic.gov.au) website provides a range of excellent resources about immunisation for school teachers, school nurses and school administrators.

Go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au to access:

- *Collection Statement* sample
- *Newsletter article* sample about the 2019 secondary school vaccine program (Word document)

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