



Department of Education and Training

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Dear parents/guardians and carers

As part of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, from Monday, 13 September, all Australians aged 12 and older are now [eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine](#).

Victorians aged 12 years and older are eligible to book and receive their COVID-19 vaccine at a state vaccination centre, Commonwealth vaccination centre, participating GP clinics, pharmacies and community health services.

Vaccination is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged. Getting vaccinated is the best way you can protect your child, your family and our school community from further outbreaks and the spread of COVID-19. Please make an appointment to be vaccinated yourselves if you have not done so already.

The Victorian Government's aim is to provide an opportunity for all children aged 12 years and older to receive at least one vaccine dose by the end of the school year.

We have written to your child to provide them with information about their eligibility for getting a vaccination. Students will be supported in every way possible to be vaccinated before the end of the school year.

Consent

Students aged 12 to 15 can book their own appointment and may be able to consent to vaccination themselves if the health professional assesses them to be a mature minor. This means that the health professional assesses that they understand the information relevant to this decision to be vaccinated and the effect of that decision.

Where a student is not considered to be a mature minor by the health professional, the health professional will seek consent from the student's parent/carer.

Parents/carers can attend with their child to provide consent in person, or can complete a [consent form for COVID-19 vaccination](#) for their child to bring to their appointment.

If you have any health concerns regarding COVID-19 vaccines, please speak to your GP.

You can also refer to the [Department of Health](#) website for information on vaccine safety and possible side effects.

How to book an appointment

Bookings for a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can be made for children aged 12 years and older via state vaccination centres, Commonwealth vaccination centres, participating GP clinics, pharmacies and community health services.

You can find a participating Commonwealth vaccination centre, GP, pharmacy or community health service through the [Australian Government Eligibility Checker](#). You can book your child's appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you.

You can book or change a vaccination appointment at a state vaccination centre through the [Victorian Government's COVID-19 vaccine online booking system](#).

To find a state vaccination centre and opening times, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

For information on what to bring to a vaccine appointment please visit [Checklist: before your COVID-19 vaccination](#).

More information

Translated advice about COVID-19 vaccines is available on the coronavirus.vic.gov.au website.

For more information about eligibility, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au or use the Australian Government's [COVID-19 vaccine eligibility checker](#).

For further assistance, contact:

- the Department of Health Coronavirus hotline: [1800 675 398](tel:1800675398)
- the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline: [1800 020 080](tel:1800020080)

Vaccines and Mental Health webinar for students on Tuesday 14 September

The Victorian Department of Health is hosting a live webinar for young people to provide information on COVID-19 vaccines and how to support their mental health. Your child can join the free webinar on Tuesday 14 September, from 6pm to 7pm. Registration is via this [link](#).

Topics will include:

- vaccine development and safety
- accessing and consenting to a vaccination
- how to book an appointment
- supporting your mental health
- question and answer session with the panel.

This event will be held via Microsoft Teams Live. For access information visit [Attend a live event in Teams](#).

Dr David Howes

Deputy Secretary

Schools and Regional Services