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| Secondary School Immunisation Program |
| Important information for Victorian secondary schools |
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# **Protecting students against vaccine-preventable diseases**

The Secondary School Immunisation Program (SSIP) offers free vaccines provided by the [National Immunisation Program](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-throughout-life/national-immunisation-program-schedule) each year to Year 7 and Year 10 students. Students will have the opportunity to receive the following:

## Year 7 students

* Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine - single injection
* Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine - two injections, spaced a minimum of six months apart

## Year 10 students

* Meningococcal ACWY vaccine – single injection

## Catch-up for students who missed vaccination at school

Some students may need to complete their adolescent vaccine program in the following school year to ensure they are vaccinated in a timely manner. Your local council immunisation service will advise parents/guardians and work with your school to deliver any catch-up vaccines due to students. Written consent provided by parents/guardians the year before remains valid the following year.

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## 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 students in Year 7 and Year 10 that informs them that their contact details will be transferred to the local council immunisation service unless they request otherwise.
2. Transfer parent/guardian/student contact details to the local council immunisation service. To make the data extraction transfer simple, quick, and secure, use the data extraction instruction guide relevant to your school in the downloads located at [Resources for secondary schools – SSIP](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-adolescents/secondary-school) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-adolescents/secondary-school>.

## Key dates for schools

* **Week of 28 January –** distribute a [Collection Statement](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-adolescents/secondary-school) to parents/guardians of all students in Years 7 and Year 10.
* **February –** record any objections from parents/guardians who 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 student data is confirmed prior to 28 February it may be sent earlier to assist local councils to prepare for the SSIP.

## What information does the local council need?

The [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_reg/phawr2019331/s112.html) authorise schools to provide the student and parent/guardian information to the local council immunisation service to assist in delivering the Secondary School Immunisation Program.

A local council may request the person in charge of a secondary school located within the municipal district to disclose the following information about a student enrolled at the school:

* student name
* date of birth
* gender
* year level and class group
* parent/guardian contact details
* language(s) spoken at home.

## Why do schools provide this information?

* To improve communication with parents/guardians regarding their child’s vaccination needs
* To ensure all eligible students are offered the opportunity to access free vaccinations at school.
* To reduce the administrative burden on school staff to follow-up consent forms
* To eliminate manual data entry processes

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## Further information for schools

The Department of Health immunisation website provides a range of [resources for secondary schools](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/vaccination-adolescents/secondary-school) to assist with delivery of the secondary school immunisation program:

* Secondary School Immunisation Program – A guide for schools
* Secondary School Immunisation Program Annual agreement – agreement between the local council and the secondary school
* Collection statement
* Important information for Victorian secondary schools
* Sample school newsletter item first term
* Sample school newsletter item for students who missed school vaccinations due to COVID-19 pandemic
* Sample school newsletter item Catch-up HPV Immunisation for Year 8 students who missed the Year 7 immunisation program
* School data extraction instructions for sharing information with councils

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