



Department of Health

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To: Principal

Dear Principal

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing commitment to Victoria's school-based immunisation program and to outline how your school can continue to support its successful delivery in 2026. Your partnership is vital to protecting the health and wellbeing of students and the wider community.

The Secondary School Immunisation Program is delivered in schools by your local council immunisation service. The program will continue in 2026, offering Year 7 students' free vaccinations against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough), and human papillomavirus (HPV), and Year 10 students the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, which protects against four strains of meningococcal disease.

Adolescent vaccination rates in Victoria (and nationally) have declined in recent years, increasing the risk of preventable disease outbreaks and reversing progress in areas such as cervical cancer prevention. Adolescence is a critical time for vaccination as immunity from some childhood vaccines begins to wane. Vaccines such as HPV, dTpa and meningococcal ACWY are most effective when given before potential exposure. School-based programs remain the most efficient model for adolescent vaccination, offering accessibility, convenience and equity.

Your school can help maximise student participation by:

- Appointing a school immunisation coordinator to liaise and work closely with your local council immunisation service to coordinate timing and delivery of the program.
- Completing and distributing the attached collection statement to parents and guardians.

For further information, visit the [Secondary School Immunisation Program](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/vaccination-for-adolescents/secondary-school-immunisation-program) webpage <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/vaccination-for-adolescents/secondary-school-immunisation-program>> or contact your local council immunisation service. For other immunisation-related queries, please email the Immunisation Program at immunisation@health.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for your support of this important program and for contributing to the health and wellbeing of your students and community.

Yours sincerely



Dr Evelyn Wong
Acting Chief Health Officer
Department of Health

19 / 12 / 2025
Attachment: Collection template letter