

Frequently asked questions about immunisation

Information for parents of school-aged children

Why immunise?

Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from the illness and the disability caused by many infectious diseases. Immunisation not only protects those people who have been immunised, but it also protects those in the community who may be unable to receive immunisations themselves, by reducing the spread of disease in the community.

What immunisations are available?

Information regarding which immunisations provide protection against diseases in Australia is available at

<http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/diseases-a-z>

Who can be immunised for free and when?

Different immunisations are recommended and available for free depending on a person's age and their prior health history. In Victoria, immunisations can be accessed through your local council or GP. For more information regarding these recommended immunisations, please refer to the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule <http://health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets/schedule-victoria.htm>.

What if my child has missed an immunisation?

It is very important your child receives the recommended childhood immunisations according to this Schedule and on time. If your child has missed any of the recommended immunisations, speak with your GP or immunisation provider regarding a catch-up schedule.

I am enrolling my child in primary school and they want an immunisation record – why?

A record of your child's immunisation history must be presented to your child's primary school on enrolment. This record is very important in assisting health authorities to protect children in the event of vaccine preventable disease occurrence in school.

An unvaccinated child may be excluded from school for a period of time to reduce the spread of the disease. Further information regarding school entry immunisation status certificates and accessing your child's immunisation history can be found at <http://health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets/starting-primary-school.htm>

What about immunisation for my adolescent?

Immunisations are also recommended for adolescents in Year 7 and Year 10. For those adolescents not attending school, funded vaccines are available to this population when they are approximately 12–13 years of age and approximately 15–16 years of age. These immunisations are provided by local council immunisation providers in every Victorian school setting. Information regarding the Secondary School Immunisation Program is available at <http://health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets/secondary-school-immunisation.htm>.

These immunisations may also be accessed for free through your GP or at council immunisation sessions, provided your child attends when they are in the appropriate grade level or are of the eligible age when the immunisation is offered. Please note a consultation charge may apply for appointments made with your GP.

Where can I get more information about immunisation in Victoria?

www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you require the translating and interpreting service to talk about any of this information with your local council immunisation service please call 131 450.

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