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| 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**.

Resourcesto guide you through the process are available at  [immunehero.health.vic.gov.au](http://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 29 January –** distribute a *Collection Statement* to parents/guardians of all students in Years 7 and 10.
* **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](http://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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