



Department of Education and Training

School Education Programs and Support

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Dear parents and carers

Last week, the Victorian Government announced it is providing free influenza (flu) vaccinations to all Victorians aged 6 months and over.

The free flu vaccinations will be provided between 1 June and 30 June 2022 to boost vaccination coverage, to help keep Victorians well over winter.

With case numbers rising quickly, families are encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu to help stay well and avoid hospitalisation during the colder months.

More than 3,000 GP clinics and pharmacies across the state have been invited to offer the free flu vaccinations. In addition, some GPs and pharmacies taking part in the Primary Care Vaccinations in Schools Grants will offer free flu vaccinations at school clinics for the remainder of Term 2. Information about which schools are taking part will be provided in the coming days.

Along with getting a flu vaccination, keeping up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations will also help your family to stay well this winter.

Most people can have their flu vaccination and COVID-19 vaccination at the same time.

Contact your GP or community pharmacy to ask about receiving a free flu vaccination.

Accessible options and supports are available for children who may have mild anxiety about vaccination or minor behavioural issues, as well as children with disability or other specific access needs. For more information, refer to coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability. Disability liaison officers (DLOs) help people with disability access these services. To contact a DLO for support, email: dlocoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Anyone in your household with cold and flu symptoms should get tested for COVID-19 and remain at home until their symptoms have resolved. To protect others, you and your family should stay at home when unwell, even if you do not have COVID-19.

If you are experiencing mild cold and flu symptoms or respiratory issues and need to see a doctor you should see a GP – not a hospital. If your usual GP can't see you face-to-face, appointments are available at general practice respiratory clinics (GPRCs), which operate at many locations across Victoria. They are free for people of all ages – with or without a Medicare card. Most clinics are available during the day as well as after-hours and on weekends, saving hospital capacity for emergencies and serious illness.

For more information including booking links, opening hours and a map of all GPRCs across Victoria, refer to vtpna.org.au/our-work/best-practice-prevention-management-and-support/gp-respiratory-clinics/

Yours sincerely

Stephen Fraser
Deputy Secretary
School Education Programs and Support