

Covid 19 Vaccinations Update

Third dose vaccine for school staff

A third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is now required for anyone who attends a school for work, unless they have a medical exemption by 25 February 2022. For staff who became fully vaccinated after 25 October 2021, the deadline is 15 March 2022.

Vaccinations for students aged 5 to 11

COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone aged 5 years and over in Australia.

The type of vaccine young people can have depends on their age and, in some cases, whether they have certain medical conditions.

Some children are already eligible for vaccination, while others will turn 5 during the year. Families should book their children in for vaccination as soon as possible after their fifth birthday.

Children aged 5 to 11 can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. They will receive a smaller dose of vaccine created specifically for their age group.

By vaccinating your children, you can:

- reduce the spread of COVID-19
- protect them from getting sick from COVID-19
- keep schools open, so children can have more face-to-face learning and playtime with their friends.

The recommended schedule for vaccination in this age group is 2 doses, 8 weeks apart. Children in this group are considered up to date with their vaccination after they have had their two-dose primary course of vaccination.

The interval can be shortened to a minimum of 3 weeks in special circumstances. For example:

- for those living with significant disability requiring frequent assistance with activities of daily living, including but not limited to down syndrome, muscular dystrophy, severe intellectual disability, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, or

- before the start of significant immunosuppression, or
- before international travel.

Bookings are available at Victorian GPs and pharmacies and at state vaccination centres.

Bookings for appointments at state-run vaccination centres are now open. Book online or call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 between 8 am and 8 pm, 7 days a week.

Many vaccination centres now offer walk-in vaccinations for children aged 5 years and older. Children aged 5 to 11 years old must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who can provide consent for the vaccination.

To find out which centres offer walk-ins, visit [Vaccination centres](#).

Preparing for your child's vaccination

As a parent or carer, there are a number of things you can consider before you take your child for their COVID-19 vaccine, to help make it a positive experience for them.

Remember, your child will need a second dose and they will receive other vaccines in the future.

If your child is anxious about receiving the vaccine or has additional needs, planning ahead and talking to them and your GP can help. The factsheet below has information on things to consider or discuss with your child. This includes what support they may need and guidance on where you book your child to receive the vaccine.

Children can receive additional support through vaccination centres, specialised centres and hospitals if they have needle distress, a disability, behavioural difficulties or other needs.

A Disability Liaison Officer (DLO) can also facilitate vaccination for a child with a disability or special requirements, including vaccination at home if needed.

What you need to bring

To make your child's vaccination as smooth as possible, you will need to bring:

- proof of your child's age (e.g. their birth certificate, passport or school card)
- a fitted face mask for yourself and your child (if they are aged 8 years and over).

Health services have arrangements in place for parents and guardians who do not have the items listed above at their appointment.

Each child must be accompanied by one parent or guardian who will provide consent for vaccination. You can also provide your child with a signed consent form to take to their appointment if you cannot attend.

For COVIDSafe reasons, only one parent or guardian can attend a vaccination appointment with a child.

**We're working hard
to keep our schools**

COVIDSafe

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne

