



Dear parents and carers

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting students to be vaccinated is helping make schools as safe as possible. Getting your child vaccinated is the best way you can protect your child, your family and your school community from further outbreaks and the spread of COVID-19.

First-dose COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 started from Monday 10 January 2022. If you have not done so yet, I would encourage you to book a first-dose COVID-19 vaccine appointment for your children aged 5 to 11 as soon as possible.

Some 5 to 11 year old children who received their first dose early in January are now eligible for their second-dose.

By vaccinating your children, you can give them direct protection against COVID-19. While children and young people are less likely than adults to experience severe symptoms if they contract

COVID-19, some may still get very sick. Children can also transmit COVID-19, meaning that vaccination helps reduce transmission to other children and older people, including family members who may be at higher risk, such as grandparents.

How to book an appointment

There are lots of convenient options to get your child vaccinated, including statewide vaccination clinics, your local GP or pharmacy, and pop-up clinics at many local primary schools.

You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

- online: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- by phone: 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)
- In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or a family-friendly vaccination centre

Many vaccination centres offer walk-ins for anyone aged 5 and older. Children aged 5 to 11 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who can provide consent for the vaccination.

For more information, including which centres offer walk-ins, visit [Vaccination centres](#).

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child's needs when you book an appointment. To find out more, visit [vaccination for kids](#).

Need a translation? Refer to the [Information about COVID-19 vaccines in languages other than English](#).

Parent survey

Parents and carers are also encouraged to complete the Department of Health survey about COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11.

By completing the survey, you will help the Department of Health to:

- understand the range of perspectives on vaccination
- design useful resources on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination services for parents and carers.

The survey will take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. Please click on the [link](#) to complete the online survey. Translated surveys are available on the front page from a drop-down menu in the right corner. The survey closes at 5 pm Thursday 17 March 2022.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 and vaccinations, please contact your general practitioner or call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

Sincerely

Stephen Fraser
Deputy Secretary
School Education Programs and Support