

# Secondary school immunisation: a guide for schools

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This guide is an initiative of Victoria's Department of Health Barwon-South Western and Grampians Regions. If you would like any further information regarding this initiative, please contact (03) 52264540 or email [Eileen.McCormick@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:Eileen.McCormick@health.vic.gov.au). If you are located in the Grampians Region, please contact Bree Porter on (03) 5333 6049 or email [bree.porter@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:bree.porter@health.vic.gov.au).

This document is available as a PDF on the internet (please visit the [Immune Hero](#) website).

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# Foreword

Every day immunisation saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from illness and disability caused by many infectious diseases. Immunisation protects both those people who have been immunised and those in the community who may be unable to receive vaccines themselves, by reducing the spread of disease.

The protection provided by some childhood vaccines fades and needs to be boosted in adolescence. Adolescents are at an age when a vaccine will be most effective and provides protection before they may be exposed to a disease. Over the past few years there has been a gradual and concerning decline in school vaccination rates for particular vaccine-preventable diseases in Victoria.

Together with immunisation providers and the education sector, Victoria's Department of Health is trialling a number of Regional Immunisation Initiatives across the state in an effort to increase secondary school immunisation rates.

As part of this initiative, the Department of Health Barwon-South Western and Grampians Regions have developed this guide for secondary schools. The aim of this guide is to:

- clarify the roles and responsibilities of schools and immunisation providers
- formalise arrangements and build on existing relationships between schools and immunisation providers
- make a positive impact on schools' consent form return rates and therefore increase the rates of immunisation in secondary schools.

Victoria's secondary schools can have a positive impact on immunisation rates by working collaboratively with immunisation providers to enhance access to school immunisation and raise awareness among students and parents and guardians of the importance of immunisation.



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# Acknowledgements

The *Secondary school immunisation: a guide for schools* has been developed by a regional working group as part of the Victorian Department of Health Regional Immunisation Initiatives. We would like to thank all of the individuals involved for their enthusiasm and commitment to the process of developing this resource. We would also like to thank all the stakeholders who provided valued feedback.

We acknowledge the Department of Health Immunisation Section for their support and funding of the project.

# About this guide

This is a practical guide for school immunisation coordinators and other school staff who are involved in school-based vaccine programs.

It provides step-by-step information and advice about coordinating the vaccine program in your school.

The guide is divided into four parts:

- roles and responsibilities
- steps for a successful vaccine program
- what to do on vaccine day
- Appendices with useful links and templates to help coordinate your vaccine program.

This guide is provided to you by your immunisation provider and includes a **template for an annual agreement** between your immunisation provider and your school that confirms the plans and schedules for your school vaccine program.




**Data indicates that adolescent participation in the school-based vaccine program ranges between 70 to 75 per cent across Victoria. The goal of the Regional Immunisation Initiatives is to raise this participation rate to 85 per cent or more.**

# Roles and responsibilities

Councils are mandated under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to provide immunisation services to children living or being educated within their municipal district. Councils coordinate and deliver vaccine programs to secondary schools.

The current and future vaccine program schedule for Victorian schools is outlined in Table 1.

**Table 1: Victoria’s School Vaccine Program in 2015**

| Vaccine   | Eligibility in the school-based program | Eligibility in community health setting |
|---|---|---|
| HPV (human papillomavirus)         | Year 7                                  | 12 – 13 years of age                    |
| Chickenpox (varicella)             | Year 7                                  | 12 – 13 years of age                    |
| Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis  | Years 7, 8, 9 & 10                      | 12 – 16 years of age                    |

Source: [Victorian Department of Health 2014](#)

## Immunisation provider

In this guide the council or its contractor is referred to as the immunisation provider. The role of the provider is to:

- undertake administrative tasks associated with the program
- deliver the vaccinations to students on vaccine day.

Nurse immunisers are either employed directly by the council or through a contracted immunisation provider, usually a health service.

**Table 2: Immunisation provider’s roles and responsibilities**

| Coordinate  | Consent   | Service delivery  |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate contact with schools</li> <li>• Provide schools with Council’s email contact details</li> <li>• Negotiate agreement with schools</li> <li>• Deliver consent forms and resources for schools to distribute</li> <li>• Maintain collaboration with schools</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review consent forms for completeness and eligibility</li> <li>• Follow up non-returned, incomplete or incorrectly completed consent forms</li> <li>• Obtain on-the-spot telephone consent from parent or guardians where appropriate (nurse immunisers only)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students are eligible to receive vaccines on the day</li> <li>• Deliver the vaccine(s) on vaccine day</li> <li>• Monitor students for 15 minutes after vaccination</li> <li>• Deal with adverse reactions to vaccine(s)</li> <li>• Follow up students who have missed vaccine(s)</li> <li>• Record and analyse immunisation data</li> <li>• Report immunisation data to national immunisation registers and the Victorian Department of Health</li> </ul> |

## School

The role of the school is to:

- appoint a school immunisation coordinator to manage the school's immunisation program
- ensure the school immunisation coordinator liaises with the immunisation provider
- send student and parent/carer contact details by email to your council immunisation provider as permitted by the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*
- support the distribution and collection of all immunisation consent forms and collect returned forms from parents/carers
- make use of vaccine resources provided by the immunisation provider to communicate with students, parents or guardians, teachers and the wider school community about school-age immunisation
- ensure appropriate resources and environments are available for the program to run smoothly

### School Immunisation Coordinator

The school immunisation coordinator is the key contact for the immunisation provider. They are responsible for ensuring student and parent/carer contact details are emailed to councils and the distribution and collection of consent forms. They are also responsible for arranging a suitable area for vaccination to take place on the designated vaccine program days.

Previous experience shows that school immunisation works best when the school immunisation coordinator is supported by staff members including the principal, teachers, and other school staff. Each of these staff members has an important role to play.

### Who can be a school immunisation coordinator?

The school principal can appoint the school immunisation coordinator from a number of different positions within the school. A health background is not required to be a school immunisation coordinator, as the immunisation provider has all the health expertise required. The more important attributes are enthusiasm, communication and strong organisational skills.

Table 3 provides examples of school staff involvement in the school vaccine program.

**Table 3: Whole-of-school approach to immunisation**

| Coordinate  | Consent   | Communicate  |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sign agreement with immunisation provider</li><li>• Appoint school coordinator</li><li>• Provide student and parent/carer contact details in class groups to immunisation provider</li><li>• Plan and facilitate vaccine days</li><li>• Supervise students on vaccine day</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribute consent forms</li><li>• Collect consent forms and sort into class groups</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liaise with immunisation provider</li><li>• Communicate with parents or guardians</li><li>• Raise awareness among students and staff</li><li>• Use health promotion resources provided by immunisation provider and the Victorian Department of Health</li><li>• Relay to the immunisation provider any questions or concerns raised by parents or guardians, students or staff (for example, concerns about side effects)</li></ul> |



## Data transfer from schools to immunisation provider

Schools are authorised under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* to provide student and parent/carer contact details (for those students eligible for school based vaccines) to the council immunisation provider so that Councils can follow up any non-returned consent forms with parents directly. Updates and changes to contact details should be communicated to council throughout the year. For further information for parents/carers please refer to Appendix D.

Please click on the following links for further information about the Request for Information and instructions regarding the extraction of the relevant information:

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [School Policy – Immunisation](#).
- School Coordinators page on the [Immune Hero](#) website

## Privacy obligations

In managing the collection and transfer of student and parent/carer contact details, and the consent form distribution and collection process, schools are required to abide by the *Information Privacy Act 2000* and the *Health Records Act 2001*. This legislation prescribes the standards for the collection, handling and disposal of personal and health information. Schools must ensure confidentiality by:

- ensuring records are secure, for example, by storing them in a locked filing cabinet
- preserving confidentiality when handling written or oral information
- conducting personal interviews in a private environment
- training staff in information-handling procedures
- monitoring access to databases and systems that contain personal and health information
- periodically reviewing appropriate access levels to databases and systems and data security arrangements.

Further information is available in the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development School policy and advisory guide: [Privacy](#).

# Steps for a successful immunisation program

**See Also** Appendix E: Eight tips for a successful school vaccine program

## Step 1: Liaise with the immunisation provider

Immunisation providers usually start their school vaccine program planning cycle prior to the commencement of the school year. Your local Council will be in touch with your school between September and December; however, schools are encouraged to contact the immunisation provider at any time during the year.

## Step 2: Confirm dates for school immunisation

Immunisation providers are delivering programs in numerous settings and need to pre-order expensive vaccines and arrange for staffing and resources. There will be a minimum of three immunisation days throughout the year scheduled as per your agreement. Under some circumstances your immunisation provider may negotiate additional days. It is important that your school adheres to the dates you've committed to in your agreement.

Make sure your proposed dates have been checked against your school calendar.

### **Don't waste valuable vaccines – plan ahead!**

Vaccines are expensive – for example, the human papillomavirus vaccine costs \$450 for the full three doses.

The government funds the cost of vaccines delivered by your immunisation provider at schools so that every young person can access immunisation.

Once the vaccines are capped on the morning of vaccine day they **must** be used – or disposed of. Vaccine disposal is expensive.



## Step 3: Enter immunisation dates into the school calendar

Marking dates in the school calendar ensures that all staff are aware of upcoming commitments. It is also important to book appropriate rooms and equipment for the days of vaccination. A checklist is provided in Appendix C that steps through all the requirements for setting up a suitable vaccination area.

## Step 4: Complete and sign agreement

A signed agreement formalises the arrangements agreed to between schools and immunisation providers in order to streamline the delivery of the school vaccine program and promotes review of your schools participation at the end of the year. Please ensure each section of the agreement is complete and accurate. The agreement can be found in Appendix A.

## Step 5: Provide school and student information

Week 1 of the School Year, schools are required to distribute the Collection Statement (see Appendix D) to all students in Yr 7 to Yr 10.

Record any objections from parents/carers. Electronically transfer contact details for those students and parents/carers who **have not** opted out to your council as soon as possible after the school census date - 28 February 2015. For further instructions about how to extract the relevant information from your school system, please go to the school co-ordinators section on [Immune Hero](#) website.

## Step 6: Receive consent forms and information packs

Your immunisation provider will supply you with consent forms and printed immunisation resources. Some immunisation providers will organise information packs to be distributed with the consent forms.

For more health promotion resources please go to [Immune Hero](#) website.

## Step 7: Distribute consent forms and information packs

It is recommended that a coordinated approach is taken to distribute consent forms (for example, through homeroom classes) and that forms are returned to the school within seven to 10 days.

Timing for distribution of consent forms depends on the annual immunisation planning cycle of your immunisation provider. It could be either at the end of the previous school year or at the beginning of the school year prior to the first vaccine day.

## Step 8: Raise awareness about immunisation

It is important to communicate vaccine day dates and times with parents and guardians, students and school staff.

Providing positive messages and appropriate health information to students and parents /carers (especially in their own language) will help them to understand the importance of immunisation and encourage students to be vaccinated.

A range of reliable and engaging resources designed to raise awareness about immunisation for teachers, students and parents are available at the [Immune Hero](#) website (see Appendix G).

## Step 9: Collect and sort consent forms into class groups

Students should bring consent forms back to school, signed by their parent or guardian. Both 'YES' and 'NO' forms must be collected. It is the school's goal to collect **100 per cent** of the consent forms. It is not the responsibility of the school to review or ensure consent forms are appropriately completed. Sorting consent forms into class groups facilitates the smooth operation of vaccine administration on the day.

It is important to note that completed consent forms constitute a health record and schools must abide by legislative privacy requirements in relation to how this information is collected, used, disclosed and stored. See the previous section: *Roles and responsibilities – School*.

## **Step 10: Provide sorted forms to immunisation provider**

The council immunisation provider will arrange for the collection of returned forms from the school. They will follow up consent forms (including those students who have not returned a form) directly with the students and parents/carers using the contact details your school provided at the beginning of the year.

## **Step 11: Pre-plan vaccine days**

Ensure resources for the day are booked and organised (see Appendix C). This includes room bookings, staffing, and the vaccine day timetable, which determines the order in which the students proceed to be vaccinated.

The vaccine day timetable is usually organised by class. This is best done with the participation of year-level coordinators and homeroom teachers, as they are aware of class sizes, timetables and class commitments. The school is responsible for providing staff to supervise students as they are vaccinated. Appendix F provides tips on communicating with students and parents/carers about immunisation.

## **Step 12: Facilitate vaccine days**

The school has a responsibility to facilitate vaccine days and ensure students are supervised at all times. It is the key responsibility of the council immunisation provider to ensure medical eligibility, administration of vaccines and appropriate care post vaccination. For more detail please see the next section entitled *What to do on vaccine day*.

## **Step 13: Communicate with your immunisation provider**

It is important to relay to your immunisation provider any questions or concerns raised by parents/carers students or staff after student vaccination, for example, concerns about side effects.

Common adverse events following the administration of vaccines are usually mild and temporary (generally occurring in the first few days after vaccination, but occasionally occurring several weeks following vaccination). If concerns are raised you should contact your immunisation provider.

## **Step 14: Continue to collect consent forms**

It is important schools forward any consent forms that are returned to school throughout the year to council. This ensures that each eligible student has the opportunity to receive free vaccination and protection against particular diseases.

## **Step 15: End-of-cycle review and planning for next year**

The school immunisation coordinator should take the opportunity at the end of the year to consider what went well, and what could be improved for the following year. The council will provide you with feedback about your consent form return rate and the percentage of students vaccinated (please refer to Appendix A).

# What to do on vaccine day

## Preparation for vaccine day

### Equipment availability

Ensure tables, chairs and privacy screens are available in the allocated room for immunisation providers to set up as necessary. Please refer to the vaccination area checklist in Appendix C to ensure you have all the equipment needed for set-up on vaccine day.

### Meet and greet your immunisation provider

The immunisation provider team will arrive at the school at the agreed time and report to the front office or reception area. They will ensure that consent forms have been correctly completed and that the required number of pre-drawn vaccines is available.

The immunisation provider team will set up and prepare all the equipment before they start immunising.

## The vaccination process

Designated school staff will escort the students to the vaccination waiting area according to the vaccine day timetable.

### Student check-in

Consent forms are normally given to all students who have returned a form marked 'YES'. The students then proceed to the vaccine area, where immunisation providers will complete a pre-vaccine checklist and ensure the student is eligible to receive the vaccine(s).

If eligible, students will be administered the vaccine(s).

### Vaccine record

The immunisation provider will ensure that each student receives a written record of the vaccines they received to take home.

### Monitoring students after vaccination

After receiving a vaccine(s), students must be seated for a minimum of 15 minutes in an adjacent area, within close proximity to the immunisation provider team. Students should be supervised in this area by a class teacher. It is important that any student who appears pale, unwell or distressed is immediately reported to the immunisation provider team for closer monitoring.

### Departure of the immunisation provider team

It is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to remain at the school until all students have completed the 15-minute waiting period and arrangements have been made for any student who is unwell or anxious.

## Some common issues

### **Students who feel anxious or unwell**

Anxious students should be encouraged to go to the front of the line to avoid waiting. Alert your immunisation provider of any student who is looking or reporting feeling anxious or unwell. If a student is unwell it is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to assess the student's condition and determine their eligibility for vaccines.

Please note: All students are deemed eligible unless deemed ineligible by a medical professional.

### **If a student presents without a consent form**

If a student presents for vaccination and wishes to receive vaccine, but has not previously returned a consent form the immunisation provider has the authority to obtain verbal consent from the student's parent or guardian via telephone.

### **If a student attends but refuses to be immunised**

The immunisation provider will make every effort to reason with and vaccinate eligible students without being forceful. If the student continues to refuse, a member of the immunisation provider team will contact the parent or guardian in one of the following ways to discuss alternative options for vaccination:

- by phone with the student present
- following the vaccine day session by phone, letter or email to organise a catch-up vaccine.

### **Absent students**

If a student is absent on the vaccine day, the school coordinator should return their completed consent form to the immunisation provider. It is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to follow up with the parents or guardians of students who are absent on vaccine day. The immunisation provider will contact the parent or guardian via a letter, phone call or email to offer a catch-up session.

### **End-of-cycle mop-up**

To achieve maximum coverage, immunisation providers may offer 'mop-up' activities for those students who have not completed their recommended immunisation schedule. Your immunisation provider will inform the school immunisation coordinator of available 'mop-up' activities. This may include the scheduling of an additional vaccine day, the option for some students to receive catch-up vaccine with their peers in other classes, or accessing a community session.

# Appendix A: Secondary school immunisation Agreement

## Secondary school immunisation: a guide for schools

### The Agreement

**Agreement between**

---

**Immunisation provider**

**and**

---

**School**

## About this agreement

Local Government Councils are required under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* to provide immunisation services to children living or being educated within their municipal district.

Councils coordinate and deliver immunisation services to secondary schools either directly or through a contracted immunisation provider, usually a health service. In this agreement, the council or its contractor is referred to as the **immunisation provider**.

The role of the secondary school is to liaise with the immunisation provider to plan and facilitate school immunisation days. This includes distributing and collecting consent forms and raising awareness about immunisation in the school community.

The purpose of this agreement is to formalise the roles and responsibilities between schools and immunisation providers to deliver the secondary school vaccine program. It is an initiative of the Department of Health's Regional Immunisation Initiatives in the Barwon-South Western and Grampians Regions.

The immunisation provider, in consultation with the school, completes sections 1, 2 and 5, signs the agreement and sends it to the school. The school completes sections 3, 4, 5 and 7, consulting with the immunisation provider if there are any issues. The principal then signs the agreement in section 6 and sends it back to the immunisation provider whilst also retaining a copy for the school's records.




### School-based immunisation program: your school's responsibilities

A message for schools from the Principal Medical Advisor, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Victoria:

- Appoint a school immunisation coordinator to manage the school's vaccination program.
- Ensure the school immunisation coordinator liaises with the immunisation provider.
- Support the distribution and collection of all immunisation consent forms and obtain completed forms from parents and guardians.
- Make use of immunisation resources available from the immunisation provider to assist with communication to students, parents, teachers and the wider school community about school-aged vaccines.
- Ensure appropriate resources and environments are available for the program to run smoothly.

(Source: [Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 2014](#))

## Victoria's School Vaccine Program in 2015

| Vaccine   | Eligibility in the school-based program | Eligibility in community health setting |
|---|---|---|
| HPV (human papillomavirus)         | Year 7                                  | 12 – 13 years of age                    |
| Chickenpox (varicella)             | Year 7                                  | 12 – 13 years of age                    |
| Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis  | Years 7, 8, 9 & 10                      | 12 – 16 years of age                    |

Source: [Victorian Department of Health 2014](#)



## 1. Your school's consent form return rates

Immunisation providers are dependent upon schools to distribute and collect consent forms to parents and guardians. The goal is to collect **100% of the consent forms**. Both 'YES' and 'NO' consent forms are required. The school should use this goal as a benchmark to improve their systems and processes in order to optimise retrieval of consent forms. It is recommended schools coordinate the return of consent forms to the school within 10 days, to optimise retrieval.

| Vaccine  | Consent Form Return Rate |       |      |
|--|--------------------------|-------|------|
|  | 2013                     | 2014  | 2015 |
| HPV (human papillomavirus)<br>Gardasil®        | ____%                    | ____% | N/A  |
| Chickenpox (varicella)<br>Varivax® / Varilrix® | ____%                    | ____% | N/A  |
| Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis<br>Boostrix®    | ____%                    | ____% | N/A  |

**Performance rating:** 90-100% - Excellent 80-90% - Very good 0-80% - Needs improvement

To achieve the goal of collecting 100% of the consent forms, schools are authorised under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* to provide student and parent/carer contact details (for those students eligible for school based vaccines) to the immunisation provider for the purposes of delivering the secondary school vaccine program.

The data transfer process is further explained in the *Secondary school immunisation: a guide for schools* (please refer to page 4). Further advice, including the legislative authorisation and instructions on how to extract the relevant data can be found on the School Coordinators Section on [Immune Hero](#).

The table below highlights the steps involved to transfer data to your immunisation provider.

| Step | Process  | Complete                 |
|------|--|--------------------------|
| 1    | Distribute collection statement letter to all parents    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2    | Record any objections received                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3    | Transfer parent contact details to immunisation provider | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## 2. Vaccine day timetable

| Date of session | Student year level | Vaccine | Arrival time of immunisation team | Immunisation commences |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| __/__/__        |                    |         | __:__ am/pm                       | __:__ am/pm            |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
| __/__/__        |                    |         | __:__ am/pm                       | __:__ am/pm            |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
| __/__/__        |                    |         | __:__ am/pm                       | __:__ am/pm            |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
| __/__/__        |                    |         | __:__ am/pm                       | __:__ am/pm            |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
| __/__/__        |                    |         | __:__ am/pm                       | __:__ am/pm            |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |
|                 |                    |         |                                   |                        |

## 3. School enrolment numbers

| Year Level             | Total Enrolments for 2015 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Year 7 (boys & girls)  |                           |
| Year 8 (boys & girls)  |                           |
| Year 9 (boys & girls)  |                           |
| Year 10 (boys & girls) |                           |

## 4. Resources

[Immune Hero](#) is a one-stop-shop secondary school immunisation website for students, schools, and parents / guardians. These resources can be utilised by schools in both the classroom and out of class time to raise awareness about the importance of immunisation. Immune Hero hosts a range of engaging and informative videos, interactive games, lesson plans and teacher resources regarding the school based vaccine program. Schools are also encouraged to use the Immune Hero [webtag](#) on their own websites to facilitate access to this information by parents, students and teachers.

### Does your school require immunisation factsheets in other languages?

| Language                   | No of Copies | Language                          | No of Copies | Language                   | No of Copies |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| <a href="#">Arabic</a>     |              | <a href="#">Karen</a>             |              | <a href="#">Somali</a>     |              |
| <a href="#">Bosnian</a>    |              | <a href="#">Khmer (Cambodian)</a> |              | <a href="#">Spanish</a>    |              |
| <a href="#">Burmese</a>    |              | <a href="#">Korean</a>            |              | <a href="#">Thai</a>       |              |
| <a href="#">Chinese</a>    |              | <a href="#">Macedonian</a>        |              | <a href="#">Turkish</a>    |              |
| <a href="#">Croatian</a>   |              | <a href="#">Maltese</a>           |              | <a href="#">Vietnamese</a> |              |
| <a href="#">Dari</a>       |              | <a href="#">Polish</a>            |              | <a href="#">Other:</a>     |              |
| <a href="#">Greek</a>      |              | <a href="#">Russian</a>           |              | <a href="#">Other:</a>     |              |
| <a href="#">Indonesian</a> |              | <a href="#">Serbian</a>           |              | <a href="#">Other:</a>     |              |
| <a href="#">Italian</a>    |              | <a href="#">Sinhalese</a>         |              | <a href="#">Other:</a>     |              |

## 5. Contact details

| Who                      | School              | Immunisation provider |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Organisation             | Name: _____         | Name: _____           |
|                          | Address: _____      | Address: _____        |
|                          | _____               | _____                 |
| Principal                | Name: _____         | N/A                   |
|                          | Phone Number: _____ |                       |
|                          | Email: _____        |                       |
| Immunisation coordinator | Name: _____         | Name: _____           |
|                          | Phone Number: _____ | Phone Number: _____   |
|                          | Email: _____        | Email: _____          |
| _____                    | _____               | _____                 |

## 6. Signature

I have read and understood the secondary school immunisation agreement and confirm that:

- the allocated vaccination dates are suitable, and
- all necessary arrangements will be put into place in accordance with the vaccination area checklist attached at the end of this agreement.

### School principal

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

### Immunisation provider

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Vaccination area checklist

| <b>Does / will the vaccination area have:</b>   | <b>Yes</b>               | <b>No</b>                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A place for students to wait that is suitable for all weather conditions, and where they can't see the vaccinations being delivered?          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Separate entry to and exit from the vaccination area?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mobile screens for students' privacy?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Availability of a separate space for the vaccination procedure that affords extra privacy to individual students being vaccinated if needed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A separate space for students to sit and be observed for 15 minutes post vaccination that is not immediately visible to the vaccination area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gym mats for students to lie down on if they feel faint during or following vaccination?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enough school staff to supervise the students before vaccination and for 15 minutes immediately following vaccination?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enough tables and chairs (for administration, the nurse immunisers and the students being vaccinated)?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integration aides accompanying students with special needs?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adequate lighting?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adequate heating / cooling?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hand washing facilities within easy reach?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Power points?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### The ideal vaccination area would be:

- on the ground floor
- away from stairs
- in an area with mobile phone reception or within easy reach of a landline phone
- spacious and free of clutter
- quiet.

If you have any concerns about the availability of items in this check list please discuss them with your immunisation provider.

# Appendix B: Secondary school immunisation Ready Reference

## What to do on vaccine day

### Preparation for vaccine day

#### Equipment availability

Ensure tables, chairs and privacy screens are available in the allocated room for immunisation providers to set up as necessary. Please refer to the vaccination area checklist in Appendix C to ensure you have all the equipment needed for set-up on vaccine day.

#### Meet and greet your immunisation provider

The immunisation provider team will arrive at the school at the agreed time and report to the front office or reception area. They will ensure that consent forms have been correctly completed and that the required number of pre-drawn vaccines is available.

The immunisation provider team will set up and prepare all the equipment before they start immunising.

### The vaccination process

Designated school staff will escort the students to the vaccination waiting area according to the vaccine day timetable.

#### Student check-in

Consent forms are normally given to all students who have returned a form marked 'YES'. The students then proceed to the vaccine area, where immunisation providers will complete a pre-vaccine checklist and ensure the student is eligible to receive the vaccine(s).

If eligible, students will be administered the vaccine(s).

#### Vaccine record

The immunisation provider will ensure that each student receives a written record of the vaccines they received to take home.

#### Monitoring students after vaccination

After receiving a vaccine(s), students must be seated for a minimum of 15 minutes in an adjacent area, within close proximity to the immunisation provider team. Students should be supervised in this area by a class teacher. It is important that any student who appears pale, unwell or distressed is immediately reported to the immunisation provider team for closer monitoring.

#### Departure of the immunisation provider team

It is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to remain at the school until all students have completed the 15-minute waiting period and arrangements have been made for any student who is unwell or anxious.

## Some common issues

### **Students who feel anxious or unwell**

Anxious students should be encouraged to go to the front of the line to avoid waiting. Alert your immunisation provider of any student who is looking or reporting feeling anxious or unwell. If a student is unwell it is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to assess the student's condition and determine their eligibility for vaccines.

Please note: All students are deemed eligible unless deemed ineligible by a medical professional.

### **If a student presents without a consent form**

If a student presents for vaccination and wishes to receive vaccine, but has not previously returned a consent form the immunisation provider has the authority to obtain verbal consent from the student's parent or guardian via telephone.

### **If a student attends but refuses to be immunised**

The immunisation provider will make every effort to reason with and vaccinate eligible students without being forceful. If the student continues to refuse, a member of the immunisation provider team will contact the parent or guardian in one the following ways to discuss alternative options for vaccination:

- by phone with the student present
- following the vaccine day session by phone, letter or email to organise a catch-up vaccine.

### **Absent students**

If a student is absent on the vaccine day, the school coordinator should return their completed consent form to the immunisation provider. It is the responsibility of the immunisation provider to follow up with the parents or guardians of students who are absent on vaccine day. The immunisation provider will contact the parent or guardian via a letter, phone call or email to offer a catch-up session.

### **End-of-cycle mop-up**

To achieve maximum coverage, immunisation providers may offer 'mop-up' activities for those students who have not completed their recommended vaccine schedule. Your immunisation provider will inform the school immunisation coordinator of available 'mop-up' activities. This may include the scheduling of an additional vaccine day, the option for some students to receive catch-up vaccine with their peers in other classes, or accessing a community session.

## Appendix C: Vaccination area checklist

| <b>Does / will the vaccination area have:</b>   | <b>Yes</b>               | <b>No</b>                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A place for students to wait that is suitable for all weather conditions, and where they can't see the vaccinations being delivered?          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Separate entry to and exit from the vaccination area?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mobile screens for students' privacy?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Availability of a separate space for the vaccination procedure that affords extra privacy to individual students being vaccinated if needed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A separate space for students to sit and be observed for 15 minutes post vaccination that is not immediately visible to the vaccination area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gym mats for students to lie down on if they feel faint during or following vaccination?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enough school staff to supervise the students before vaccination and for 15 minutes immediately following vaccination?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enough tables and chairs (for administration, the nurse immunisers and the students being vaccinated)?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integration aides accompanying students with special needs?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adequate lighting?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adequate heating / cooling?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hand washing facilities within easy reach?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Power points?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### **The ideal vaccination area would be:**

- on the ground floor
- away from stairs
- in an area with mobile phone reception or within easy reach of a landline phone
- spacious and free of clutter
- quiet.

If you have any concerns about the availability of items in this check list please discuss them with your immunisation provider.



# Appendix D: Example letter to parents (collection statement)

## Secondary School Vaccine Program

### Transfer of contact information to local council

Dear parent/carer,

The secondary school vaccine program helps ensure students and communities are protected from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, human papillomavirus and chicken pox.

Local councils deliver the program and schools distribute the vaccine consent forms.

Recently the *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009* were amended to authorise schools to release parent and student information to local councils so that councils can follow up with parents after the consent forms have been distributed.

This means that we will provide your local council with your contact details and a local council representative may contact you with vaccine program information. If you do not wish for your details to be provided to your local council, please advise me in writing before close of business 28 February 2015.

If you are unable to contact me by the above date you will need to contact the officer responsible for the vaccine program at your local council in the event that you have queries about your contact details.

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. All Victorian secondary students can receive these vaccines for free through the school-based program.

The next step will be to return the student's vaccine consent forms to the school. Without returning a consent form, a student may miss the opportunity to be vaccinated. It is important the consent forms are completed and returned to the school, regardless of whether you agree that the student will be vaccinated or not as part of the school-based program.

For further information please go to the following links:

- [insert link to the school's privacy policy]
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/Pages/complainschool.aspx>

From your Principal [insert name]

[insert school office contact number]

# Appendix E: Eight tips for a successful school vaccine program

- |   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| ✓ | <b>Planning</b>      | Start planning at the beginning of the annual vaccine program planning cycle.   |
| ✓ | <b>Preparation</b>   | Schedule your vaccine days and organise the vaccination area well before the first vaccine day.   |
| ✓ | <b>Communication</b> | Give the students and parents or guardians as much information as you can – this will encourage them to take immunisation seriously.  |
| ✓ | <b>Cooperation</b>   | Establish a good working relationship with the immunisation provider team and share information with them early on in the year.   |
| ✓ | <b>Teamwork</b>      | Previous experience shows that school vaccination works best when the school immunisation coordinator is supported by other staff members including the principal, teachers, and other school staff. Each of these staff members has an important role to play. |
| ✓ | <b>Follow up</b>     | The school should be working towards a <b>100 per cent consent form return</b> , and should put systems and processes in place to achieve this.   |
| ✓ | <b>Promotion</b>     | Promote Immunisation and encourage students and parents or guardians to return their consent forms – this will pay off in higher vaccination participation rates and better health outcomes for young people.   |
| ✓ | <b>Review</b>        | Learn from each year to make the next year a better process.  |

# Appendix F: Messages for communicating with parents or guardians and students

## Messages for communicating with parents or guardians

**Vaccination is free for a limited time – take advantage of this while your child is eligible.**

- All consent forms need to be returned. You need to either consent to your child receiving the vaccination by marking 'YES' on the consent form or refuse by marking 'NO' on the consent form.
- The consent form should be returned by [provide a specific date].
- On vaccine day your child should wear loose and comfortable clothing, for example, their sports uniform.
- Let the school know as soon as possible if your child is going to be absent on vaccine day.
- Parents and guardians are not required to attend with their children on vaccine day.
- If your child misses a vaccine day for any reason, please contact the immunisation provider to organise a catch-up vaccination [provide a telephone number].
- If you have any questions or concerns you should ring the school immunisation coordinator [provide telephone number] or your immunisation provider [provide telephone number].

## Messages for communicating with students

- Yes, needles hurt – but only for a second! The benefits far outweigh a little discomfort.
- Make sure you eat breakfast on vaccine day morning.
- Bring an extra snack and drink with you on vaccine day to avoid getting faint or dehydrated.
- Wear loose and comfortable clothing on vaccine day, for example, your sports uniform.
- Leave books and bags in the classroom.
- Bring a buddy if you need support.
- If you are feeling anxious, let us know – you can go in first and get it over and done with.

# Appendix G: Resources

## Where to find out more about the school vaccine program

### Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Victoria's Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has developed an [Immunisation School Policy Advisory Guide](#) in relation to school-age children and immunisation.

### Secondary School Vaccine program website

*Immune Hero* ([Immunehero.vic.gov.au](http://Immunehero.vic.gov.au)) is a one-stop-shop secondary school immunisation website for students, schools, and parents / guardians. Immune Hero hosts a range of engaging and informative videos, interactive games, lesson plans and teacher resources regarding the school based vaccine program. These resources can be utilised by schools in both the classroom and out of class time to raise awareness about the importance of immunisation. Schools are also encouraged to use the Immune Hero [webtag](#) on their own websites to facilitate access to this information by parents, students and teachers.

### Your local Immunisation provider

Your council can help you to access up-to-date information about immunisation. Contact your Council or visit Council's website.