

# 2017 Secondary School Vaccine Program

Important information for Victorian secondary schools

## Year 7 Vaccinations

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 students in 2017. These vaccines provide protection against:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

This is the final year for the varicella catch-up vaccine program in secondary schools.

## What do schools need to do?

There are two key steps for schools to action at the commencement of the school year:

- 1. Send a collection statement** to parents/guardians 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.**

Resources to 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 2017 for schools

- **Week of 30 January** – distribute a *Collection Statement* to parents/guardians of all students in Year 7.
- **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.

## 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 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:

- a *Collection Statement* to be issued to all parents/guardians of students in Year 7 during the first week of Term One, 2017
- Sample newsletter article about the 2017 secondary school vaccine program (Word document)

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