

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

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 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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