

8 February 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

YEAR 7 SECONDARY SCHOOL VACCINE PROGRAM

The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to help make sure students and communities are protected from diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, human papillomavirus (HPV) and chicken pox. Local councils deliver the program and schools distribute the vaccine information and consent card booklets.

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019* authorise secondary schools to provide their local council with student and parent/guardian contact information for any student scheduled to receive a vaccination. This information assists local councils to follow-up parents/guardians of students with incomplete or missing consent cards.

What information goes to local council?

Schools provide the following basic student and parent/guardian contact information:

- Student name, gender, date of birth, year level, class, language(s) spoken at home
- Parent/guardian names, phone numbers, email and postal addresses

Why do schools provide this information?

- To ensure all Year 7 students are offered the opportunity to access free vaccinations at school
- 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

What do I need to do?

1. Your information will be provided to Greater Shepparton City Council this month. If you do not wish for your details to be provided, please advise me in writing before 25 February 2022.
2. Immunisation Consent cards (provided by Greater Shepparton City Council) will be distributed to your student during Pastoral Group. Please read the information provided in your child's consent card booklet and complete all sections, regardless of whether or not you consent for your child to be vaccinated as part of the school immunisation program.
3. Detach Part A of the consent card booklet with all fields completed, and return it to the school no later than Wednesday 23 February 2022.

Every day, vaccination saves lives and makes it possible for Victorians to live free from the illness and disability caused by many infectious diseases. All Year 7 Victorian secondary students can receive these vaccines for free.

For further information please go to the following links:

- <https://www.notredame.vic.edu.au/our-college/key-policies-and-documents>
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/immunisation-in-secondary-schools>

Yours faithfully



Belinda Jeffery
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