

Letter to students regarding third dose eligibility for 16- to 17-year-old children

Dear students

Getting vaccinated is one of the most important steps we can all take to get direct protection against COVID-19.

Thanks to the hard work of you, your school communities and families, almost 97% of all 12- to 18-year-olds have now had their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and more than 95% have received second doses.

Importantly, most students aged 16 and 17 are now eligible for their third dose.

A third dose will help maintain your protection against COVID-19, so that you can keep doing the things you love. It also ensures that our schools remain safe and able to give you the education and support you need to help you reach your goals.

Consent

Many 16-17-year-olds can provide their own consent if deemed to be a mature minor by a health professional. This means that a health professional assesses that you understand the information relevant to the decision to be vaccinated and the effect of that decision. Where this is not possible, consent can be provided by a parent/guardian attending the appointment, providing consent over the phone or via a pre-signed consent form.

Where to get a third dose

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

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

- online: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- by phone: [1800 675 398](tel:1800675398) (Coronavirus Hotline)
- In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or a [family-friendly vaccination centre](#)

Need help?

Call the [Coronavirus Hotline](tel:1800675398) 1800 675 398: booking or vaccination questions

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

Extra support for children with disability or special requirements

Young people aged 16 to 17 years who are severely immunocompromised and have already received a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine should also receive a booster dose (4th dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible, three months after receiving their third dose.

Dedicated vaccination centres (pop-up clinics) are available to for parents and carers who need help for their child to get vaccinated.

For more information, refer to the [Vaccine information for people with a disability or special requirements.](#)

Thank you again for your support in ensuring children and our schools are as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely