



## Department of Education and Training

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Dear Parents and Carers

Children aged 5 to 11 can get the COVID-19 vaccination from 10 January 2022. This includes 5-year-olds who attend early childhood education and care services.

Please help your child get vaccinated before the end of January (when Term 1 starts for school) or as soon as they turn 5.

Bookings are not open yet but will be open in a few weeks. Children will need two separate appointments for the two doses.

Vaccines stop people getting very sick, and help stop the virus spreading.

Students do not have to get vaccinated to attend school or early childhood education and care, but it is the best way to keep all children safe.

### [Make a booking](#)

Bookings will be available later in December 2021.

You will be able to book a vaccine appointment at a participating general practice, pharmacy or community health service, or at state vaccination centres through the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

### [Hotline and translation](#)

The Department of Health's [Coronavirus Hotline](#) 1800 675 398 can help you book an appointment. They can answer questions you have about vaccination.

For school information in languages other than English, call TIS National on **131 450**. Please ask them to call the DET COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663** and they will help interpret.

The Victorian Government's [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website also has [information about COVID-19 vaccines in 63 community languages](#).

### [Support for students with disability](#)

There is [extra support](#) for students with disabilities or who need extra help to get their vaccination. Contact specialist [Disability Liaison Officers](#) who can help make it easier.

The [Association for Children with a Disability](#) will hold a Facebook live session for families with children with additional needs on Tuesday 11 January at 10.30am. [Register online](#).

### Parent and community webinars

The Royal Children's Hospital will hold a Facebook live session – 'COVID-19 vaccinations for five- to 11-year-olds: Your questions answered' on Thursday 16 December at 11am.

Refer to [the Facebook page](#) for more information.

### More information

Here is some information to help you learn more about vaccination:

- [Needle phobia - The Melbourne Vaccine Education Centre \(MVEC\) \(mcri.edu.au\)](#)
- [Tips to help a child afraid of needles and stop it becoming a phobia - ABC Everyday](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination social scripts - Amaze - Autism resource](#)
- [Sesame Street ABC of COVID vaccines](#)

To keep us all safe in 2022, please help your child get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Fraser**

Deputy Secretary

School Education Programs and Support

14 December 2021

**Kim Little**

Deputy Secretary

Early Childhood Education

14 December 2021