

FAQs

This information is current at 24 August 2021

When is the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available to students?

From Wednesday, 25 August onwards, all students 16 years and over are eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and are encouraged to book as soon as possible.

The Victorian Government aims for all final year students to be vaccinated by the time they sit their end-of-year exams.

Anyone 18-39 years who has already booked their first dose AstraZeneca appointment at Victorian State Centres does not need to change or cancel their appointment. They will be offered the Pfizer vaccine when they attend.

In addition to everyone 16 years and over, young people aged 12 -15 years are currently eligible if they:

- have an underlying medical condition.
- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Students, parents/guardians and carers are encouraged to book their vaccine at a vaccination centre using the [online booking system](#) or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

What do you need to bring to a vaccination appointment?

Bring these things, if you have them:

- a face mask
- any emails about your vaccination appointment (on your phone or printed)
- photo identification, if you have one, such as a passport or driver's licence
- a Medicare card or Individual Healthcare Identifier number

For information refer to [Before you get vaccinated for COVID-19](#).

How do I find out where to go to get the vaccine?

Information on how to book a COVID-19 vaccine, and where vaccines are being administered, is available at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>

From 30 August, people aged 16-39 can get their COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic, pharmacy or community health service.

You can find a participating doctor, pharmacy or community health service through the [Australian Government Eligibility Checker](#). You can book your appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you.

If I want to get vaccinated, when should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

You are encouraged to book your vaccination appointment as soon as possible.

While senior secondary students are encouraged to get their first dose before the GAT on 9 September, it is recommended that students do not schedule their vaccination appointment on the day of the GAT, or any exam or the day before an exam. This is to avoid feeling common side effects such as tiredness, headache, muscle pain, fever and chills and / or joint pain during your exam.

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FAQs continued

This information is current at 24 August 2021

Which vaccine will I be receiving?

Students aged 16 and over will be offered the Pfizer vaccination at their state vaccination centre appointment.

Anyone 18-39 years who has already booked their first dose AstraZeneca appointment at a Victorian vaccination centre does not need to change or cancel their appointment. They will be offered the Pfizer vaccine when they attend.

Any secondary student who is 18 or older and who has already received one dose of their AstraZeneca vaccine should continue to proceed with their second dose of AstraZeneca. This is consistent with current health advice.

I can't find any available appointments nearby, what do I do?

Information on how to book a COVID-19 vaccine, and where vaccines are being administered, is available at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>.

Students and parents may also call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. Please be patient as there may be wait times for appointments.

How should parents and teachers help support students for vaccination bookings?

Schools are asked to share information about eligibility and access to students, parents, guardians and carers.

Parents, guardians and teachers are encouraged to help support students and especially final year students to make their vaccination appointment for as soon as possible. Once an appointment has been made and if this is to occur during school hours, they should discuss and plan their expected absence and impact on learning requirements.

Schools should exercise maximum flexibility to enable all eligible students to book and then attend their vaccine appointments.

Students can book their own appointment and consent to vaccination themselves if the health professional assesses them to be a mature minor.

Can I make an appointment to be vaccinated during school hours?

Final year secondary students are asked to make an appointment as soon as possible.

Secondary students aged 16 and above are encouraged to make appointments at times that minimise disruption to their learning where possible. Prior to their appointment students should discuss absence with teachers and parents/guardians and carers.

Is the vaccine mandatory?

No. Vaccination for COVID-19 is voluntary for students aged 16 and above, however it is strongly encouraged and will assist in giving VCE students more certainty around sitting their end-of-year exams.

Can my school force me to be vaccinated?

No. The vaccines are voluntary for the general community, which includes students and you can choose if you want to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The more students who are vaccinated, the more protected our community and schools will be.

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FAQs continued

Can I take time off after the vaccine if I'm feeling unwell?

Students should discuss their health if they are feeling unwell with parents/guardian and carers and plan absence from school with their teachers where appropriate.

The Victorian Department of Health advises that like all vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects. For more information on the potential side effects of COVID-19 vaccination, visit the [Department of Health](#) website.

Is the vaccine safe? I am concerned about the vaccine and its possible side effects.

Please refer to the [Department of Health](#) website for information on vaccine safety and possible side effects.

I have just had my flu vaccine, or am planning to have my flu vaccine, can I still have the COVID-19 vaccine?

It is recommended to leave a period of 7 days between receiving the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination planning can be discussed with your immunisation provider. For more information please refer to the [Department of Health](#) website.

My disability/medical condition affects my ability to physically access the vaccine. Are there other options?

Students should speak to their doctor if they have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and their health.

Information on how to book a COVID-19 vaccine, and where vaccines are being administered, is available at the [Department of Health](#) website. You may also call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 to discuss any additional requirements you may have.

The [Disability Liaison Officer \(DLO\)](#) program aims to help more people with disability access health services, including:

- COVID-19 testing
- COVID-19 vaccination
- advice and prevention through linking people to other health supports.

Where can I find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Information about COVID-19 vaccines can be found on the [Australian Government Department of Health](#) website and the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](#) website.

You may also refer to [Information for education staff receiving a COVID-19 vaccine | Coronavirus Victoria](#).



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