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Dear Parents and Carers

Children aged 5 to 11 can now get the COVID-19 vaccination. 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 and kindergarten) or as soon as they turn 5.

Bookings are now open. Children will need 2 separate appointments for 2 doses of the vaccination, 8 weeks apart.

Vaccines stop people getting very sick and help stop the COVID-19 virus spreading.

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

Make a booking

Bookings are available now.

You will be able to book a vaccine appointment at a participating general practice, pharmacy or community health service, or at [state vaccination centres](https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/).

The Department of Health’s [Coronavirus Hotline](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/contact-us) 1800 675 398 can help you book an appointment. They can also answer questions you have about vaccination.

Translation

For 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 website also has [information about COVID-19 vaccines in 63 community languages](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-covid-19-vaccines).

Support for students with disability

There is [extra support](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability) for children with disabilities or who need extra help to get their vaccination. Contact specialist [Disability Liaison Officers](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability) who can help make it easier.

The [Association for Children with a Disability](https://www.facebook.com/acdvic) will hold a Facebook live session for families with children with additional needs on Tuesday 11 January at 10.30am. [Register online](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/facebook-live-qa-registration-224421760527?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

Parent and community webinars

The Royal Children’s Hospital have posted a YouTube video – ‘[COVID-19 vaccinations for five- to 11-year-olds: Your questions answered](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TmQOtZutAbY)’.

You can refer to the YouTube 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)](https://mvec.mcri.edu.au/references/needle-phobia/)
* [Tips to help a child afraid of needles and stop it becoming a phobia - ABC Everyday](https://www.abc.net.au/everyday/how-to-help-if-your-child-is-afraid-of-needles/11838692)
* [COVID-19 vaccination social scripts - Amaze - Autism resource](https://www.amaze.org.au/support/resources/covid-19-vaccination-social-scripts/)
* [Sesame Street ABC of COVID vaccines](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPlhRUF2aXA)

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

Yours sincerely

**Stephen Fraser**Deputy Secretary
School Education Programs and Support

**Bronwen FitzGerald**ActingDeputy Secretary
Early Childhood Education

10/1/2022