



Department of Education and Training

Early Childhood Education

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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](#).

The Department of Health's [Coronavirus Hotline](#) 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](#).

Support for students with disability

There is [extra support](#) for children 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 have posted a YouTube video – '[COVID-19 vaccinations for five- to 11-year-olds: Your questions answered](#)'.

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://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.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Fraser

Deputy Secretary

School Education Programs and Support

Bronwen FitzGerald

Acting Deputy Secretary

Early Childhood Education

10/1/2022