

BULLETIN: 82/2021

MANDATORY VACCINATION FOR CHILDCARE AND SCHOOL STAFF

[The Victorian Government has announced](#) that all staff in schools and early childhood services will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

In order to work, all staff must have a first dose of vaccine by 18 October or have a booking within one week, with full vaccination required by 29 November unless a medical exemption applies.

This includes government and non-government schools and all types of early childhood and care settings.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect all children, staff and communities and ensure face-to-face learning isn't disrupted.

The Department of Education and Training will support principals to implement this requirement in the coming weeks, with all government school staff entitled to a half-day of paid time off to get their vaccination. Staff and students over 12 are urged to book an appointment as soon as possible. For more information about vaccines, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine.

To help prevent transmission, masks will remain mandatory for secondary school students and all adults, and are strongly encouraged for primary school-aged children wherever possible.

To help slow the spread of coronavirus in school settings, the Government is investing more than \$190 million in schools across Victoria to ensure that once they're back open, they stay open. These include installation of air purification devices and grants to purchase shade sails and create more outdoor learning spaces.

The Victorian Government is also establishing a Ventilation Technical Advisory Panel to undertake further risk assessments of other environments – for example, early childhood settings and youth justice facilities, which will help inform future ventilation measures.

These initiatives build on advice already issued to schools to increase fresh air flow into indoor spaces through opening windows, using door jams, and switching air handling units to 100 per cent outdoor air, where possible.

Regards,

Julie Reid
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Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary
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