



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek City Council

2026 Secondary School Immunisation Program



Year 10 Immunisation Program



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Why do vaccines matter?

1. They protect you from getting sick
2. They protect the people around you
3. They stop diseases spreading
4. They keep schools and communities healthy

What vaccines will I be getting at school?

1. Meningococcal ACWY (free for school students 14-16 years)
2. Highly recommended (optional) vaccines (At a cost unless medically at risk)*
 - Meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero®)
 - Influenza vaccine

*Your school will advise you if they are offering these vaccines.

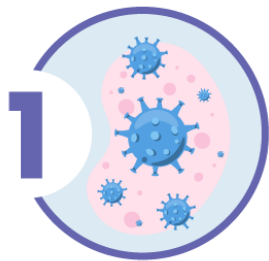


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How do vaccines work?

1. Vaccines stimulate the body's immune system
2. Help the immune system produce antibodies

HOW DO VACCINES WORK?



A vaccine is a weak or inactive form of a virus or bacteria.



Your immune system responds by making antibodies.



If you are exposed to the virus or bacteria later, the antibodies quickly fight the disease.



Source: <https://www.parsemus.org/>

Vaccine provided in Year 10



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Meningococcal Disease

- Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious disease, that can quickly become life threatening.
- Complications include loss of limbs, deafness, blindness, scarring, organ failure and sometimes death.
- Older teenagers and young adults are most likely to carry the meningococcal bacteria and spread to others through close contact.

Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine (Menquadfi®)

- Vaccine protects against 4 strains (A, C, W and Y) in one vaccine and usually requires a single dose.
- Free and recommended for all students aged 14-16 years (Yr 10 equivalent). Catch up also available up to 19 years (inclusive).
- Vaccine is very safe and highly effective in providing protection against the 4 strains.



Meningococcal Disease



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Additional vaccines available



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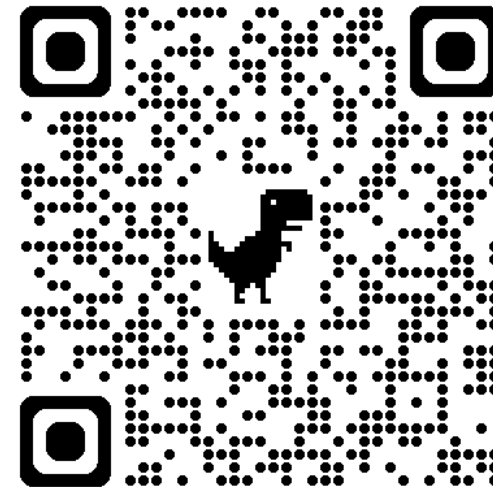
Are there other vaccines I can also get at school?

Your school is offering you the opportunity to receive additional recommended vaccines that are not funded through the School based immunisation program. These may include:

Meningococcal B (Bexsero®)

- Recommended for adolescents aged 15-19 years of age (highest risk group)
- Most common and dominant strain in Victoria
- Men B causes over 80% of Meningococcal infections nationally
- Vaccine is safe and effective
- Requires 2 doses 8 weeks apart
- Can be given at the same time as the Year 10 vaccine

For more information on Meningococcal B:



Consenting to the vaccines?



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How do we consent to the vaccines?

Please discuss the vaccines with your parents or guardian as they will need to provide consent for you to receive them.

Online consent will be used again this year.

The consent link and vaccine information will be sent to you and your parents approximately one month prior to our visit to your school.

What if I miss my vaccines at school?

If you miss receiving your vaccines at school, you can come to one of Merri-bek City Council's community immunisation sessions to catch up.

The vaccines are free and should be done as soon as possible.



How do I get more information?



Want more information?

For detailed information regarding the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine, please refer to the Better Health Channel.

[Secondary School Immunisation Program | Better Health Channel](#)

Want information about Year 10 vaccines in your language?

Download the Year 10 school-based immunisation program – information for parents PDF in your own language.

[Year 10 secondary school immunisation program information and consent form \(Victoria\)](#)

Want to talk to someone?

1. If you need more information about Year 10 immunisations, please contact our Immunisation team. You can email them at Immunisation@merri-bek.vic.gov.au, or call them on 92401111 (follow the prompts to speak with Immunisation team).
2. Don't forget to discuss the vaccines with your parent or guardian as they will need to provide consent for you to receive them.

