

# Central Goldfields Shire Council

Frequently asked questions about the revaccination program for families of affected Students

**OFFICIAL**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why am I receiving this letter?

In December 2021, a review of Council's Secondary School Immunisation Program found that the temperature of the fridge used to store secondary school and adult vaccines was not appropriately monitored between April 2020 and December 2021.

This means that we cannot confirm that the vaccines administered during this time were stored at the correct temperature in accordance with the manufacturer's product information. Vaccines which are stored at temperatures outside of the optimum range may lose some of their effectiveness.

There is no health risk to you from having received a vaccine during this period. There is however some possibility that the vaccine administered may not have delivered full immunity as intended.

### What does this mean for my child?

You have received a letter because your child received a vaccination administered between April 2020 and December 2021 as part of the Secondary School Immunisation Program at Maryborough Education Centre and Highview College. There is a small risk that the vaccine your child received may not have been fully effective and your child needs to be revaccinated to ensure they have full protection.

A single 'booster' injection of the vaccine brand that was administered is generally sufficient even if there was a temperature storage breach. This is because your child is likely to have at least partial protection even if the

vaccine was affected. If you are worried about your child's protection, you can speak with your GP or SAEFVIC.

## Which vaccines may have been affected?

The following vaccines were administered in the Central Goldfields Shire Council's Secondary School Immunisation Program and may have been affected:

- Year 7 – Human papillomavirus and Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Year 10 – Meningococcal ACWY

## If the vaccine was affected, could it be harmful?

Even vaccines stored outside the recommended temperature range will not cause harm. Any incorrect storage of a vaccine may result in reduced protection against the disease for which it was administered; therefore, revaccination is necessary.

## Are there health risks in being given the vaccines again?

No. There are no increased health risks in giving a further dose of vaccine. All vaccines can cause some redness, swelling and pain at the injection site and this may occur after revaccination.

## What are the options for revaccinating my child?

You can arrange for your child to be revaccinated by choosing one of the following options:

- Option 1: at their school as part of the school immunisation program from March 2022.
- Option 2: at the Community Immunisation Program administered by Central Goldfields Shire Council.
- Option 3: at your GP.

## Will my child's immunisation record be updated?

Yes. Your child's immunisation provider will notify the Australian Immunisation Register to update your child's immunisation history statement.

## Will I incur any cost for revaccination?

If the vaccine is given by Central Goldfields Shire Council or another local council, there is no cost to you. If you choose to have your child revaccinated with your GP, there may be an out-of-pocket cost for administering the vaccine.

## What if my child just had or is shortly due for a COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccines recommended for revaccination for your child can be given at any time before or after the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Who can I talk to if I have further questions about revaccination?

- For questions about the Secondary School Vaccination Program contact Central Goldfields Shire Council's Coordinator Immunisation Services, Hannah Castles on 0428 894 724 or email [immunisation@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au)
- For expert vaccine advice contact the Victorian vaccine safety service (SAEFVIC) operating hours are 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday (except public holidays). The online system is always available:

- i. Email: [enquiries@saefvic.org.au](mailto:enquiries@saefvic.org.au)
- ii. Phone: 1300 882 924 (option 1)
- iii. Online: <https://www.safevac.org.au>

Alternatively, you can obtain further advice from your local GP or health service.

To receive this document in another format, [email the Immunisation Unit](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.  
Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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