



FOR SCHOOLS

School catch-up clinic

A practical reference for secondary college administrators — typically the school nurse, wellbeing coordinator, or business manager — when arranging catch-up vaccinations for students who missed the council-run school-day clinic. Covers the NIP-funded vaccines, parental consent, scheduling, and post-clinic reporting.

What the adolescent NIP schedule includes

YEAR 7 (TYPICALLY AGE 12–13)

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) — single dose under the NIP since 2023, replacing the previous two-dose schedule.
- Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa) booster — protects against whooping cough through adolescence and into early adulthood.

YEAR 10 (TYPICALLY AGE 15–16)

- Meningococcal ACWY booster — protects against four strains of meningococcal disease most associated with adolescents and young adults.

All adolescent NIP vaccines are free for eligible students

Catch-up vaccinations under the NIP carry no out-of-pocket cost for students up to age 19 (and certain age extensions for HPV). Students do not need a Medicare card for the catch-up program.

Why a catch-up clinic

School-day delivery typically reaches 80–90% of consented students in Year 7, and 70–80% in Year 10, but absences, illness, late consent forms or new enrolments mean a meaningful number of students miss their dose. Without a follow-up route, many never receive it — particularly the Year 10 meningococcal booster, which is otherwise easy to overlook.

A pharmacy-based catch-up clinic provides an accessible, low-friction alternative for these students and their families. The clinic operates outside school hours, requires no GP referral, and lodges the dose to the Australian Immunisation Register on the day.



How a catch-up clinic typically runs

1. School identifies students who missed the school-day clinic. A short list of names + dose required is shared with us under the existing NIP information-sharing arrangements.
2. Letter sent to families (template available on request) explaining the catch-up option, with a link to book.
3. Families book online via Healthengine, walk in, or call. Catch-up vaccinations are NIP-funded, so there is no charge.
4. Vaccinations administered by an AHPRA-registered pharmacist immuniser at Priceline Pharmacy Sunshine Marketplace, with the standard 15-minute observation.
5. Doses lodged to the Australian Immunisation Register within 24 hours.
6. Aggregate (de-identified) report sent to the school to update internal records — names, dates, vaccines.

Consent and parental decision-making

Adolescents aged 14 and over may consent for themselves under the Gillick competence framework if the immuniser assesses them as having sufficient understanding and maturity. For students under 14, parental or guardian consent is required.

For school-arranged catch-ups, we recommend the school continues to use its standard NIP consent form so the family understands the catch-up is part of the same program. We can co-sign and counter-sign for our records.

What the school provides vs what we provide

FROM THE SCHOOL

- List of students requiring catch-up (name, year level, dose required).
- Standard NIP consent forms collected from families.
- A primary contact for the program (typically the school nurse or wellbeing coordinator).

FROM IMMUNISATION HUB

- AHPRA-registered pharmacist immunisers, multilingual team.
- NIP-funded vaccines stored in validated cold chain.
- Pre-vaccination screening, administration, observation, and AIR submission.
- Aggregate post-clinic report to the school.
- Family-facing communications support if needed.



Common questions from schools

CAN WE HOLD THE CATCH-UP CLINIC AT THE SCHOOL?

Yes — we can deliver an on-site catch-up clinic at the school for groups of 15+ students. For smaller numbers, the Priceline Pharmacy Sunshine Marketplace clinic is the most cost-effective option for families.

WHAT ABOUT THE COUNCIL IMMUNISATION TEAM?

The Brimbank City Council immunisation team continues to deliver the primary school-day clinics. The pharmacy catch-up is complementary — it picks up students who missed those clinics. We coordinate with the council where helpful.

WHAT IF A STUDENT IS IN THE WRONG YEAR LEVEL FOR THEIR AGE?

Eligibility under the NIP is age-based, not year-level-based. Students up to age 19 remain eligible for free NIP catch-up, regardless of which year they are in. For HPV catch-up, eligibility extends to age 25.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS?

No. The NIP-funded adolescent vaccines (HPV, dTpa, meningococcal ACWY) are free for eligible students up to the program age limits. There is no service fee for NIP-funded catch-ups.

References

National Immunisation Program schedule. Department of Health and Aged Care. health.gov.au/topics/immunisation

Australian Immunisation Handbook — Adolescent vaccination chapter. immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au

Victorian Department of Health — secondary school immunisation program. health.vic.gov.au/immunisation

No Jab No Play (Vic) and Family Tax Benefit (Cth) — Services Australia.

Brimbank City Council immunisation services. brimbank.vic.gov.au