



Dear Parent/Guardian

The Chief Health Officer has written to all education sectors requesting that we provide advice to school communities regarding the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer is urging you and your family (including all children aged 12 years and older) to take the opportunity over the upcoming school holidays to get vaccinated for COVID-19.

Children aged 12 years and older can receive a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at a Queensland Health vaccination location or at a participating General Practice (GP). In the very near future, you will be able to access Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine at a participating community pharmacy.

I too encourage you to please make this a priority for your family these school holidays by taking the below actions.

HOW TO BOOK

1. Register your interest (<https://www.vaccinebookings.health.qld.gov.au/registerforvaccination/>) to receive your COVID-19 vaccine at a Queensland Health vaccination location.
 - a. Older children can register themselves separately if they have their own email address or
 - b. A parent/guardian can register and set up their children as dependents. All correspondence will be managed through the parent/guardian's email address. Read more about [creating a dependent in the vaccine booking system.](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/book/help#dependents) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/book/help#dependents>)

If you need assistance with vaccination bookings, call 134 COVID (13 42 68).

2. Access the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder>) to book a vaccination at a participating GP or community pharmacy.

WALK IN OPPORTUNITIES

Walk in appointments are currently available at selected Queensland Health vaccination locations. To find your closest walk-in vaccination location, please visit www.health.qld.gov.au/vaccinelocations.

CONSENT

For young people, consent from a parent/guardian is usually required. In Queensland:

- Individuals aged 12 to 15 years may require a parent/guardian to provide consent, however may be mature enough to provide informed consent
- Individuals aged 16 years and older are generally deemed to have capacity to consent for vaccination.



It is recommended that children under the age of 16 have a parent/guardian with them at their vaccination appointment. Young people seeking to provide informed consent themselves, without parental consent, should speak to their vaccinating clinician.

Find out more about [age of consent for vaccinations](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/consent) (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/immunisation/consent>).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and children, please visit Queensland Health's website for [children, young people and parents](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/information-for-young-people?fbclid=IwAR0Im8Fd6taqDM6XNG-ZYULLSIVJR0_3vwh3jkgG-1ak2Y9bTQgPGvqxac4) (https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/information-for-young-people?fbclid=IwAR0Im8Fd6taqDM6XNG-ZYULLSIVJR0_3vwh3jkgG-1ak2Y9bTQgPGvqxac4). General information about the vaccine is also available in [multiple languages](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language) (<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language>).

If you need an interpreter to book your vaccination appointment, call 13 42 68 and ask to be connected to an interpreter. If an interpreter is needed to phone this service, first call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and they can connect you.

If an interpreter is needed at the vaccine appointment, advise a staff member when you arrive at the vaccination location so they can arrange this for you. This is a free service.

Thank you for your cooperation to keep Queensland and our school communities safe. Let us continue to hold in prayer our health professionals and all who have been impacted in any way during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I wish you all the best for the forthcoming student vacation period.

Yours sincerely

Leesa Jeffcoat AM
DIOCESAN DIRECTOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

16/09/2021