

# Vaccinating 12-18 year olds – Overview of approach

**Goal:** To protect young Victorians, safeguard their education, and contribute to achieving 80% vaccination of eligible Victorians

**Objectives:**

1. All final year students, and VCE staff/assessors, have had the opportunity to be vaccinated with at least one dose prior to the commencement of the end of year examination period
2. Barriers to access have been identified and addressed to achieve equitable access for young Victorians
3. Key education staff required for facilitating end of year examinations have had the opportunity to be vaccinated prior to commencement of end of year examination period

**Principles of the approach**

- The approach recognises the need to achieve rapid vaccination of the final year cohort.
- The approach will heavily leverage the existing vaccination system, and engage families, schools and communities in the effort
- The approach is designed to achieve rapid ‘one off’ coverage of final year students, a separate piece of work is underway the vaccination of all young people 12-18 years and additional work will be required to plan an embedded COVID-19 school vaccination program in 2022

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- Identify schools with students at higher risk of COVID and may have highly specialised needs, including specialist schools.
- Schools will be directly contacted and supported to achieve maximum vaccination within their school community using a variety of pathways, including GP in-reach, group bookings and Disability Liaison Officer support.

- Many of these students are already eligible and this work can start immediately.
- Other targeted strategies may be required to overcome local access barriers such as transport support and bi-cultural workers

**Case management support – complex schools**

- A further ~70+ priority schools identified across Victoria based on range of measures
- These schools will be asked to host one-off pop-ups for eligible students, staff and community) commencing in September holidays

- Students, staff and families will be able to access vaccination in their local school environment
- This program will be centrally managed by DH and engage providers including health services, community health and local government
- Bi-cultural workers and other supports may be available for some schools

**Pop-up on-site vaccination for hard to reach school communities**

- Final year students will be invited to participate in a priority access 'blitz' at state vaccination centres in early September.
- Targeted support for hard to reach final year students will follow blitz (e.g. ~ 10 school pop ups)
- Work with AMA to encourage prioritised bookings in primary care.

- An intensive communications strategy to commence when bookings open, heavily utilising schools and youth channels, will encourage call to action to young people, parents and carers and school staff to get vaccinated
- School staff provided with vaccine hesitancy training and age appropriate collateral.

**Final year student dose 1 priority access 'blitz'**

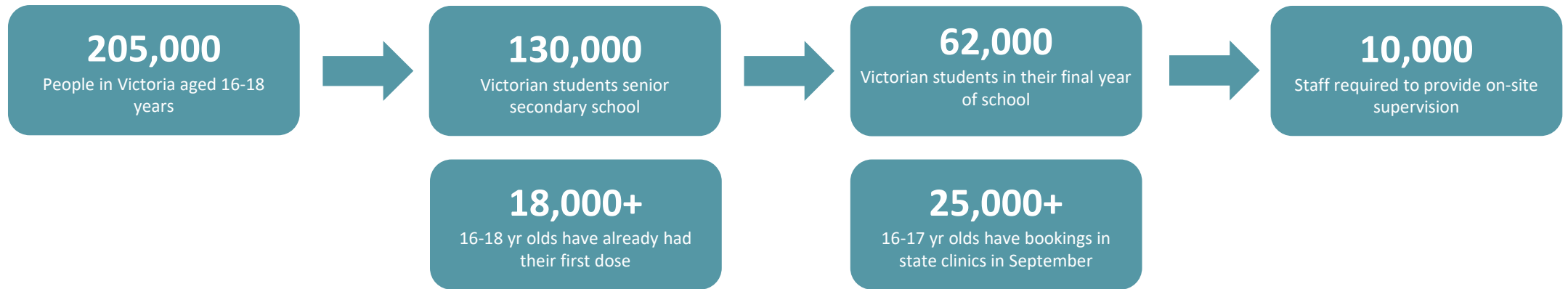
**Heavily promote access through fixed system and primary care, in line with eligibility**

Options available **with** additional supply

Options available **without** additional supply

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# Snapshot of current uptake and access



Following DET's intensive communications campaign to schools, students and parents promoting the eligibility of those aged 16 to 39 years to access Pfizer, and encouraging vaccination (particularly for final year students and VCE staff and assessors):

- 25,000+ bookings have been made for 16-18 year olds vaccination at state vaccination clinics since 25 August (bookings in September)
- From 30 September general practices across Victoria have been able to administer vaccine to 16+.
- Based on Australian Immunisation Register data approximately 18,000+ young people aged 16 – 17 years have now received a first dose in Victoria (increasing by around 3,000 doses per day)

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# Vaccinating 12-18 year olds – Final Year blitz



A dedicated phone line  
Operational from 6  
September



50,000 priority  
appointments from  
7 Sept to 17 Sept



Support for schools  
who need it most

- All young people and their families are being encouraged to make a booking, particularly as GPs are able to vaccinate people in this age group from Monday 30 August.
- To facilitate access for final year students, and staff required to supervise on-site exams, a pre-exam 'final year blitz' is planned.
- The plan involves a dedicated phonenumber to book into dedicated student/staff sessions at state-run sites. Between 40,000 and 50,000 priority appointments will be created all across the state.
- Call Centre staff are being trained to deliver age appropriate messages and provide information about the consent process.
- Students will be able to use the phone line to book their second dose from three weeks, and before the commencement of their exam period in early October.
- No evidence requirements for final year students – proof of age sufficient. VCE teachers and assessors to be provided letter from school (template to be provided by DET)
- DH and DET to monitor uptake and coverage to inform a subsequent wave of targeted strategies.
- Schools and students with additional needs will be supported with options to make group bookings and to organise transport assistance, along with a small number of pop up hubs to get to the schools and communities facing the greatest challenges accessing the state hubs.
- Victoria will be able utilise the additional 52,400 doses of Pfizer to be allocated from the Singapore swap to cover the first dose requirement for this initiative.

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# Initial timeline

September 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1 Public announcement of final year Blitz	2	3 Further details released – including phone line information	4	5
6 Phone line and bookings go live	7 Blitz commence for dose 1	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 End of final year blitz	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Second doses commence	29	30	1	2	3

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