



Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the process for Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL) Schools to manage DOBCEL's vaccination requirements relating to parents, carers and other visitors not performing work on school sites.

These guidelines commence with immediate effect and operate until further notice. DOBCEL will monitor and assess the operation of these guidelines in line with the latest information from government and health agencies. DOBCEL may amend, withdraw or replace these guidelines from time to time at its sole discretion.

Vaccination requirements for parents, carers and other visitors not performing work

All parents, carers and other visitors attending schools, including for drop-off and pick-up, must adhere to physical distancing, density limits and face mask requirements, and practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene.

Schools must sight vaccination information of parents, carers and other adult visitors not performing work who enter school buildings (excluding students who visit a school to complete a secondary school subject, such as a VET subject). Schools do not need to collect, record, or hold the information in these circumstances.

Parents, carers and other adult visitors (excluding students who visit a school to complete a secondary school subject) who enter school buildings must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception, with the following limited exceptions:

- when attending to administer medical treatment to their own child where the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- when attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer
- when attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar.

Parents, carers and other adult visitors attending school sites for drop-off and pick-up who do not enter school buildings do not need to comply with vaccination requirements.

Parents, carers and other adult visitors attending a gathering at school, such as a fete, school play or other school ceremony, whether indoors or outdoors, need to show evidence of vaccination on arrival.

When parents and carers do not meet vaccination requirements, the school should hold meetings and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) virtually.

Schools should advise external providers who use or hire school facilities outside school hours that they are responsible for ensuring the use aligns with the Open Premises Order including vaccination requirements.

Medically excepted persons

In line with the Mandatory Vaccination Orders, parents, carers and visitors may be able to show that they are an 'excepted person.'

Parents and carers who are considered excepted persons may enter school buildings.

This is a very limited category and applies only if the person has obtained an Australian Immunisation Register immunisation medical exemption certificate from their medical practitioner stating that they are unable, due to a medical contraindication or an acute medical illness (including COVID-19), to receive a dose, or a further dose, of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Exceptional circumstances

An unvaccinated parent, carer or visitor may be able to attend a school site to either:

- respond to an emergency at the facility.
- provide urgent care due to an emergency situation or a critical unforeseen circumstance.

These exceptions only apply for the time required to respond to the exceptional circumstance, and the school should ensure that the unvaccinated parent, carer or visitor leaves the facility as soon as possible.

Schools should exhaust all other options before calling on an unvaccinated person to respond to an emergency situation.