



## Department of Health and Human Services

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Ms Mary Macheras-Magias  
Coordinator, Consumer Representation and Training  
Health Issues Centre  
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Dear Ms Macheras-Magias,

On 26 November 2015, the Minister for Health announced implementation of a Pharmacist-Administered Vaccination Program in Victoria (the program).

Amendments to the Drugs, Poisons & Controlled Substances Regulations 2009 have been made, which enable the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (the department) to approve the administration of certain Schedule 4 poisons by pharmacists without a prescription or instruction from an authorised health professional.


A Secretary Approval Pharmacist Immuniser was gazetted on 10 May 2016, and specifies the conditions under which pharmacists are authorised to administer vaccines. This Approval authorises appropriately trained pharmacists with general registration to administer influenza and pertussis-containing vaccines to Victorian adults.

During the consultation process for the Pharmacist-Administered Vaccination Program, stakeholders discussed the need for pharmacists to register as a business involving skin penetration with their municipal Council under the *Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008*.

To support implementation of the program, amendments to the Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations 2009 commenced on Thursday 16 June 2016 following a period of consultation. The amendments exempt pharmacies from registering with their local government as a business undertaking skin penetration where they are administering vaccines in accordance with the Approval. If the business at a pharmacy premises involves both administering vaccines **and** other skin penetration (e.g. ear piercing), the premises will still be required to be registered.

If you would like further information about local government's requirements under the amended Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations, please contact your Regional Environmental Health Officer or Communicable Disease Prevention and Control on 1300 651 160.

Yours sincerely



**Carmel Flynn**  
Director, Health Protection  
Health Protection and Emergency Management Division  
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