



Information for parents and guardians

Walk to School this October and kick-start your child's active habits for life.

VicHealth's Walk to School month encourages primary school children to walk, ride or scoot to and from school throughout October, to help them get the 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day.

Walking to and from school can also give you more time to connect and chat with your kids, and the opportunity to meet up with other local families along the way.

If you can't walk all the way, your child can still get involved – simply drive part way and walk the rest!

Your family can get involved

Taking part through your child's school

If your child's school is taking part in Walk to School, your child's teacher will record how many times students walk to and from school during October, using a classroom calendar. Schools with the highest participation levels in each region will be eligible for some great prizes – so each time your child walks, they'll also be increasing their school's chances!

Taking part online

If your child's school is not taking part in Walk to School, your child can still participate, and make their walking count, by signing up, with your permission, via the Walk to School app or at www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au. Your child can then keep track of their walks during October, and contribute to the state-wide effort taking place during October.

The free app includes a game that allows children to create their own imaginary Walk to School journey, and collect bonus creatures and objects for their world with each walk they record. The app is available for free from the iTunes store and Google play.

Competitions and prizes

Regardless of how many times they walk, children can enter fun walking-themed competitions each week, and have a chance of winning some fantastic prizes. Competitions will be promoted on the Walk to School website and Facebook page throughout October.

Our community partners

Walk to School 2015 is proudly supported by our Official Community Partners, Cricket Victoria and the Melbourne Stars.

Schools and students participating in Walk to School 2015 will have the chance to win fantastic prizes from our partners.

More information

- @ walktoschool@vichealth.vic.gov.au
- www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au
- www.facebook.com/WalkToSchool
- twitter.com/WalkToSchoolVic

What information will be collected?

Why does VicHealth collect information about school and student Walk to School participation?

By collecting information about participation, VicHealth will be able to work out new and better ways to encourage children to be active.

VicHealth will use the data we collect to see how much walking is happening in different parts of Victoria, and to measure the impact of Walk to School on walking behaviour. We will use aggregate data for individual schools, schools within a region, and schools in the state, so we can evaluate participation, identify walking trends and behaviour, and measure program

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effectiveness. VicHealth may publish Walk to School results at the school or state level in VicHealth publications or other publications.

Classroom calendars

If your child's walks are recorded on a Walk to School classroom calendar, your child's teacher will record your child's name, how many times they usually walk to and from school each week, and how many times they walk to and from school during October.

Schools will be asked to provide a summary of their aggregated participation data to VicHealth in November 2015. If schools ask VicHealth or the Walk to School coordinator at their local council for assistance, VicHealth or the local council may collect the school's classroom calendars to summarise and report the school's participation. VicHealth may also collect and analyse a sample of classroom calendars to understand student walking patterns.

Walk to School website and app

VicHealth administers the Walk to School website and app. If you register your child online or on the Walk to School app, you will need to provide your child's name and user name, password, and email address (optional). We won't ask for your child's date of birth, phone number or address.

To collect information about your child's walking activity, we'll ask how often your child usually walks to and from school each week, the distance you live from school, and which days they walked during October. We will provide an online map to help you work out how far you live from school, but will automatically delete the addresses you enter on the map as soon as you close that page.

Who will have access to participation data?

Information collected on classroom calendars will only be accessed by your child, your child's teacher and your school's Walk to School coordinator. If schools ask VicHealth or their local council for assistance, VicHealth or the local council may collect the school's classroom calendars to summarise and report the school's participation. VicHealth may also collect a sample of classroom calendars to understand student walking patterns. VicHealth and local councils will securely store and destroy classroom calendars once summary data has been reported.

Information collected on the Walk to School website and app will only be accessed by your child and

VicHealth. Your child's name or user name is only collected to allow VicHealth to administer the online student portal and create aggregated participation reports. If you choose to provide an email address as part of your child's profile, the email address will only be used to provide you with information about Walk to School 2015 and to allow your child's user name to be recovered or their password to be reset if they are forgotten.

We may post some entries from our weekly competitions on our website and Facebook page. We will ask you directly for your permission before posting your child's entry online.

VicHealth may share de-identified participation data with our evaluation team at Deakin University for the purposes of analysing and reporting on the outcomes of Walk to School.

VicHealth will securely store and destroy classroom calendars once analysis has been completed. Only aggregated data will be used for reporting, and no individual will be identified. All personal information about your child will be securely stored and destroyed by June 2016.

What if I don't want my child to participate?

Participation is voluntary, as is the collection of personal information.

If your child's school is taking part in Walk to School but you do not want your child's teacher to record how many times your child walks to and from school during October, ask your child's teacher not to include your child's name on their Walk to School classroom calendar.

If your child has been registered on the website, and you want their profile deleted, you can delete it or ask VicHealth to delete it.

If you choose not to record your child's walks, your child can still enter weekly Walk to School competitions during October. And of course, you can still walk to school as often as you like, and enjoy the benefits!

Your privacy

If you wish to gain access to, or request the correction of, your personal information held by VicHealth, or if you have any other enquiries regarding privacy, contact the VicHealth Privacy Officer at privacy@vichealth.vic.gov.au.

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