# Public COVID-Safety Plan

Version 7.1 – 14 January 2022

Blue Mountains			
Grammar	School		

Changes to the previous version are highlighted in pink

## PART A CONTEXT

## **RECOGNITION AND THANKS**

After two years of COVID -disruption to our lives and our School community, the School acknowledges the extraordinary work of every member of staff in accommodating additional expectations and requirements and investing so heavily in our students and their families. So too, the School is thankful for our students and their families, who have been very accommodating and cooperative. Implementing these Plans requires teamwork and that is what we have seen so far and what we are confident of seeing throughout 2 022.

## INTRODUCTION

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adopted will be too conservative for some and not conservative enough for others. It recognises that some will feel comfortable with the protections the selected measures afford and others will not. The School also acknow ledges that our implementation of these measures will be imperfect, more so where the compliance of students is concerned. Nonetheless, the School is convinced that these measures will satisfactorily mitigate the widespread risks that we have identified an d will develop individual COVID -19 Risk Management Plans to manage more specific risks. Nonetheless, staff, parents and students must accept that in coming on campus, commuting to School or attending any School event they, and/or members of their family, m ay be exposed to COVID-19.

## **DURATION**

This version of the Public COVID-Safety Information will remain active until an update is issued, the document is completely replaced by a new version or the document is withdrawn and not replaced.

# PART B VACCINATIONS

## STAFF VACCINATIONS

Under the Public Health Act 2010 and the Public Health (COVID -19 Vaccination of Education and Care Workers) Order 2021 (23 September 2021) BMGS workers (unless medically exempted) must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or they may not carry out work on campus . This includes employees, contractors, peripatetic tutors and coaches. The Public Health Order also requires that the School take all reasonable steps to ensure that School employees comply with this law. It is important to note that there are no legal alternatives to vaccinations , not even Rapid Antigen Tests .

#### STUDENT VACCINATIONS

The School does not require its students to be vaccinated for COVID -19. NSW Health encourages, but has not mandated, the vaccination of young people .

Whilst parents cannot be required to provide vaccination status information about their children, schools may request it in the same way that they require information about other vaccinations. The School has elected not to do them is unless required. Examples where this is required is where a student wishes to play ISA Sport. It may also be required where a student wishes to interact with other schools in any number of other ways or to attend certain excursion or sporting venues, or to attend certain campsites. In such cases, students (or parents on their behalf) who refrain from providing this information may not be granted access to the venue or program.

The School is unlikely to permit NSW Health, or any other provider, to operate a vaccination program on our campus. In the event that a vaccination program is implemented for children and/or young people on our School campus, informed consent will be sought from parents or carers before any vaccine is administered.

Where a student provides a copy of a negative COVID -19 Test but continues to present with symptoms (e.g. wh ere an individual experiences hay fever), they may be required to provide a mwh3 24.835 1.48 42.(ide)1 ()68i-1.4 73tu.239 0.(e)1 (qu)0

# PART E PERSONAL HYGEINE

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

There are no restrictions to the number or density of people occupying a space or at gatherings. Nonetheless, all persons on campus are expected to:

- 17.1 avoid close personal contact (such as hugging and shaking hands);
- 17.2 ensure they provide a social distance of 1.5m between all adults and Senior School students;

Junior School students are to provide as much social distancing as possible.

FACE MASKS

#### **EQUIPMENT HYGIENE**

- 21.1 The School will sanitise all high touch surfaces each evening, after the school day concludes.
- 21.2 All frequently touched surfaces, door handles, light switches, handrails, School equipment used, desks and the tops of chairs will be disinfected:

at the beginning and at the conclusion of all Senior School lessons (students to clean with the resources placed in each space); and

if students move classrooms (teacher/educators to clean, with the assistance of st udents where possible, using the resources placed in each space).

## **ROOM VENTILATION**

Where possible, the School will take measures to maximise ventilation and airflow in rooms. This will make it more difficult and, in some cases, impossible to cool and heat classrooms. All students should dress appropriately based on the temperature. Where this will require a departure from the student dress code, permission will be provided by the Head of School.

## PART F ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

## FACE-TO-FACE LEARNINGAND COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Classroom learning activities will be designed to reduce physical interactions and enable appropriate social distancing. Higher risk activities, such as singing, will be undertaken subject to formal risk assessment processes that include a consideration of COVID -19 risk mitigation and the ratio of risk to 'reward'.

## ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Throughout the first few months of 2022 there may be students temporarily kept at home for COVID sick, such student s are encouraged to rest and recuperate. For those seeking to engage in learning some content suitable for at -home learning .

-related reasons. Where the School will provide

## 24.1 Junior School

The nature of the provision of online learning for Junior School students temporarily learning from home for reasons relating to COVID will be determined by the age and capability of the students concerned. Teachers will consult with the Head of JS as necessary. As a general rule, teachers will provide work for students at home via Google C

# PART G PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical activity is permitt ed within existing PDHPE classes according to the following guidelines.

28.1 Activities must be designed to keep students separated and facilitate social distancing.

Focus on individual practice and personal fitness

Promote the development of movement, interper sonal and self-management skills

Modify game activities.

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