



Changes to the previous version are highlighted in green

## PART A CONTEXT

### 1 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 2022.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

Despite the loosening of restrictions on schools and the community, we have an obligation to take all reasonably practicable steps to protect the health and safety of all staff and students. Independent schools make decisions about these measures for themselves, using all available advice. At BMGS, these decisions are made on the basis of a risk assessment and after extensive risk management planning processes. The School's approach in deciding whether a safety measure is reasonably practicable depends on the likelihood of the risk eventuating, the severity of the risk, the state of knowledge on measures to address the risk, the suitability and availability of measures to address the risk, the School's capacity to implement those measures and the cost of doing so. The School's assessment of risks may change when new information arises or when new advice is provided. The School may change its mitigation strategies at any point at the Headmaster's absolute discretion. It should be noted that school leaders are not doctors and rely on the knowledge of a lay person with the advice of NSW Health to reasonably interpret Public Health Orders and other relevant information.

The School recognises that the approaches it has 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 acknowledges 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 and will remain aware of COVID-19 risk as we manage the operation of the School. 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, may be exposed to COVID-19.

### 3 PURPOSE

This document outlines the approach our School will take in managing the ongoing risks associated with COVID-19. The approach outlined is compliant with all relevant current Public Health Orders and has been subject to a thorough process of risk assessment, informed by advice from NSW Health, the NSW Department of Education and Training and the Association of Independent Schools NSW.

### 4 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

### 5 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.

### 6 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 this 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.

## **7 PARENT VACCINATIONS**

Parents are now permitted on site for certain events with or without vaccination. The School does not collect information in relation to the vaccination status of parents.

## **8 VISITOR VACCINATIONS**

The School does not exclude visitors, including parents, from campus on the basis of vaccination status.

## **9 VOLUNTEER VACCINATIONS**

Volunteers, including parent volunteers, are classified as 'workers' and so must provide evidence of full COVID-19 vaccination. Individual volunteers will be advised how they might provide an appropriate type of evidence if relevant.

# **PART C COVID TESTING**

## **10 SYMPTOMATIC TESTING**

The NSW Government has instituted a program of 'symptomatic testing' to commence on 28 February, 2022 and continue for the whole of Term 1. At this stage we are unclear what measures will be in place from the commencement of Term 2.

### 10.1 Symptomatic Testing

School staff and students are expected to participate in the NSW-wide program of symptomatic testing that involves the use of RAHT kits when individuals feel that, due to the presence of symptoms or for any other reason, they wish to ensure they have not contracted COVID-19.

### 10.2 Distribution

For students, this program will be supported by the NSW Government's provision of additional RAHT kits to be used at the discretion of parents for the remainder of Term 1. Participating families have been provided eight additional RAHT kits per student. When this supply runs out families are advised to continue to access PCR tests and use store-purchased RAHT kits.

### 10.3 Administration of RAHTs

School staff will not administer RAHTs to students. Kits will be sent home and they will be administered there.

### 10.4 COVID Testing on Camps

If RAHTs are required on camps, staff will assist students, with advice only, in self-administration. Participation in this measure will be a requirement for all persons that attend the camp. Parents will provide permission for participation on the camp permission form.

### 10.5 Requirement to Report

The Public Health Order requires that when an individual tests positive to COVID-19, whether through a PCR or RAH test, it is reported to Service NSW and their school. It should be noted that these notifications are particularly critical if they impact school operations. Responsibility for these notifications lies with the individual. There is no expectation that schools will ask or follow up.

### 10.6 Reporting a Positive Test to the School

Where a student returns a positive test, parents are expected to email the relevant campus with the result.

- Junior School Springwood – [absencejss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- Junior School Wentworth Falls – [absencejs@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejs@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- Senior School – [absencess@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencess@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- The following information must be included in the email:
  - Student Name
  - Student Year Group (eg Year 3)
  - Type of Test (RAHT or PCR)
  - Date of Test
  - Test Result

### 10.7 What About Negative Test Results

There is no obligation to report negative test results in NSW.

## PART D HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

### 11 HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

A household contact is a person who has not tested positive for COVID-19, but lives with someone who has.

#### 11.1 What should Household Contacts do?

Student household contacts are required by NSW Health to isolate for 7 days unless they have previously tested positive to COVID and ended their isolation for this in the preceding 28 days.

#### 11.2 Subsequent Household Contact

A household contact is not obligated to further self-isolate if they are subsequently notified that another member of their household has contracted COVID-19 and it has been fewer than 14 days since the contact completed their self-isolation period. This means a household contact does not need to self-isolate as a contact more than once in a 21-day period unless the person is diagnosed with COVID-19. If more than 14 days has passed since a household contact completed their self-isolation and they are notified of a new case within their household, they will need to isolate again for 7 days.

#### 11.3 Household Contacts who recently had COVID

If a student has previously tested positive for COVID-19 and it has been no more than 8 weeks since they ceased their period of self-isolation, they need not self-isolate if they become a household contact. If it has been more than 8 weeks since they ceased their period of self-isolation, the regulations that relate to all other household contacts again apply to them.

## PART E WHAT IF SICK?

### 12 COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS

Students with even the mildest cold or flu like symptoms are expected to stay home and be tested for COVID-19.

#### 12.1 Underlying Conditions

Any person with an underlying illness that gives rise to COVID symptoms must provide the School with a doctor's certificate that describes the symptoms and assures the School the symptoms are not evidence of COVID-19 or any other transmissible infection.

#### 12.2 Obvious Symptoms

Students presenting with any cold or flu like symptoms not related to a School-approved underlying condition will be immediately sent to sickbay and isolated in a separate space until they are able to go home. Parents are asked to ensure that someone is available to pick up their child at short notice to reduce the risk to BMGS First Aid staff.

#### 12.3 Prior to Returning to School

Prior to returning to School after an illness with COVID symptoms, students are required to:

- provide a copy of their negative COVID-19 test result; and/or
- provide a medical certificate that states they do not present a risk to others; or
- isolate for 7 days and be symptom free upon return.

Copies of negative COVID-19 Test results are to be given to one of our receptionists. Alternatively, families may provide copies of negative COVID-19 Test results via email to the relevant campus.

- Junior School Springwood – [absencejss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- Junior School Wentworth Falls – [absencejs@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejs@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- Senior School – [absences@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absences@bmgs.nsw.edu.au)
- The following information must be included in the email
  - Student Name
  - Student Year Group (eg Year 3)
  - Type of Test (RAHT or PCR)
  - Date of Test
  - Test Result

Where a student provides a copy of a negative COVID-19 Test but continues to present with symptoms (e.g. where an individual experiences hay fever), they may be required to provide a medical certificate that demonstrates a non-infectious underlying condition.

## 13 CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

### 13.1 The Individual's Responsibilities

Any student who tests positive to COVID-19, using a RAHT or receiving a PCR, is required to follow NSW Health requirements under the Public Health Order for testing positive and self-isolation. Currently, the requirement is to:

- report positive RAHTs to Service NSW;
- report any positive COVID test (PCR or RAHT) to the School;
- isolate for 7 days following the positive test;
- cease using RAHTs for the period of their isolation and for a further 28 days;
- leave isolation after 7 days unless they have symptoms,
  - if there are symptoms after 7 days, including a sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath, then remain in isolation until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved;
  - if symptoms persist, leaving isolation after 7 days is only permitted with a medical clearance;
- after the isolation period they can immediately return to School following the protocols below.

#### Prior to Returning to School

Prior to returning to School after COVID, students are required to:

- provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result; and/or
- provide a medical certificate that states they do not present a risk to others; or
- isolate for 7 days and be symptom free upon return.

Copies of negative COVID-19 Test results are to be given to one of our receptionists. Alternatively, families may provide copies of negative COVID-19 Test results via email to the relevant campus.

- Junior School Springwood – absencejss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au
- Junior School Wentworth Falls – absencejs@bmgs.nsw.edu.au
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- The following information must be included in the email
  - Student Name
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Where a student provides a copy of a negative COVID-19 Test but continues to present with symptoms (e.g. where an individual experiences hay fever), they may be required to provide a medical certificate that demonstrates a non-infectious underlying condition.

### 13.2 School Response to a Positive Case

If we receive a report of a case of COVID within our community, the School will send a communication to relevant families alerting them that there has been a case and to monitor for symptoms.

## PART F COMING ON CAMPUS

## 14 VISITORS PERMITTED ON SITE

### 14.1 All Visitors

All visitors (whether vaccinated or not) are now permitted on Campus, however are required to:

- sign both in and out at one of our receptions or in the Maintenance area (unless dropping off at the start of the day or picking up at the end of the day);
- adhere to all COVID-19 Safety requirements as articulated in this document and in any other communication;
- attend to the instructions of School Staff both prior to events and whilst on campus;
- whilst not usually required to wear a mask, be prepared to do so when advised by the Event Supervisor.

### 14.2 Parents

Parents (whether vaccinated or not) are now permitted on Campus.

### 14.3 Volunteers

As workers, volunteers, including parent volunteers, are required to be fully vaccinated to support school operations or fulfil specific roles, such as helping with activities or conducting reading groups.

#### 14.4 Uniform Shop

Students and parents / carers can visit the uniform shop during normal operating hours or order by email or phone. Uniform shop orders can also be placed by email and phone as follows.

- Orders may be placed by:
  - calling the Uniform Shop Manager on (02) 4757 9004, or
  - emailing uniformshop@bmgs.nsw.edu.au
- Orders will be processed when the shop is open.
- Orders can be collected from the any one of our Reception Areas.

## PART G SELF-MANAGEMENT

### 15 FACE MASKS OR COVERINGS

#### 15.1 Masks No Longer Required

In line with recent changes to regulations and community expectations:

- From 3pm Friday 25 February, masks are not required for staff, students or visitors in the Senior School.
- From Monday 7 March, masks are not required for staff, students or visitors in the Junior School. Until this date masks will be worn by staff and visitors, except when removal is temporarily required (with social distancing) for the reasonable performance of their duties. This delayed date is in recognition of the lower vaccination rates in Primary-aged students.

Whilst masks are no longer mandated, individuals may continue to choose to wear a mask. The School may also choose to request that masks be worn as a risk mitigation strategy for certain School events or activities.

#### 15.2 When are Masks Required?

All adults and Senior School students are still expected to wear a mask when on a bus or train and in any public venue where the proprietor requires them to do so.

#### 15.3 Visitors

Visitors to the campus and School events are still required to wear masks whilst indoors, unless Event Supervisors grant an exemption based on a Risk Assessment.

### 16 SOCIAL DISTANCING

Individuals are expected to make their own risk-based decisions in relation to social distancing.

### 17 PERSONAL HYGIENE

At the beginning of each lesson, students will be expected to publicly sanitise their hands. The School will continue to supply hand sanitiser in all learning spaces. Students are welcome to bring their own should they prefer to do so. In addition, all persons on campus are expected to:

- 17.1 wash their hands regularly and/or use hand sanitiser throughout the day;
- 17.2 cough or sneeze into their elbow; and
- 17.3 dispose of tissues and other personal use items immediately into the bin.

### 18 EATING AND DRINKING

There are no longer any constraints placed upon individuals in relation to eating or drinking.

### 19 EQUIPMENT HYGIENE

- 19.1 The School will sanitise all high touch surfaces each evening, after the school day concludes.
- 19.2 Senior School students will continue to sanitise relevant surfaces and resources when they enter a space and when they leave.

### 20 ROOM VENTILATION

Where possible, the School will take measures to maximise ventilation and airflow in rooms. This will make it more difficult 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 H ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

### 21 FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING AND COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Classroom learning activities will return to normal. 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'.

### 22 ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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

#### 22.1 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 Classroom or Class Dojo. They will ensure work provided for at-home learners is meaningful and reflects some of the content covered in class, though not the exact same content as being covered in class as on-line learning and face-to-face learning are very different for Junior School students.

#### 22.2 Senior School

Senior School students temporarily learning from home for reasons relating to COVID will access all lesson content and resources via Google Classroom.

### 23 EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

All aspects of the School's academic calendar will operate as normal, including Senior School examinations and other assessments.

### 24 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All physical activity is permitted under normal conditions.

### 25 PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS

Private Music lessons are permitted on campus under the constraints applied by the School.

- 25.1 Tutors will follow all COVID-Safety procedures that apply to staff and adults on site.
- 25.2 Tutors will take care in wiping down shared surfaces/instruments.
- 25.3 Students will sanitise their hands before and after using shared instruments.

### 26 EXCURSIONS

Excursions, carnivals, field trips and camps are all permitted as normal.

## PART I SCHOOL SPORT

### 27 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SPORT

All sporting events and activities return to normal with the following constraints.

- 27.1 Anyone with even the mildest cold or flu symptoms is expected to stay home and be tested for COVID-19.

### 28 GOING OUT FOR SPORT

The School may travel to external venues for sport in line with community settings.

- 28.1 Where transport is required, mixing between cohorts will be minimised.
- 28.2 We may make use of community facilities but must minimise contact with those outside of the school community.
- 28.3 We will comply with the entry requirements of public indoor recreation facilities and, where required, provide evidence that all staff and students aged 16 and older are fully vaccinated.
- 28.4 Where participating in Community sport, the School will comply with any conditions of participation.

### 29 ISA SPORT

There are no longer any spectator limit and masks are no longer required. We believe that this is the case at all ISA schools.

Please note that:

- 29.1 BMGS affiliated persons including all staff, students and parents are asked to abide by all ISA policies, the host school's COVID-19 Safety Plan, the instructions of any COVID-Safety Marshalls and the requests of any BMGS staff or formal volunteers.

- 29.2 the protocols associated with ISA Sport are negotiated between participating schools as a condition of participation and may change from time to time. There will be variation between ISA member schools' policies and whilst we will attempt to communicate any differences between a host school's policies and our own School policies, this will not always be possible

## PART J TRANSPORT

### 30 TRANSPORT

All students are encouraged to use private transport rather than buses or trains to reduce the probability of introducing the Coronavirus to their family or our School community.

#### 30.1 Cars

In relation to transport in cars, the School asks that students only travel in vehicles with other students in accordance with the Public Health Order. We also request that families not introduce students from other families into their vehicle where it would cause the mixing of BMGS cohorts.

#### 30.2 Buses and Trains

In relation to communal transport:

- Senior School students must wear masks on buses and trains;
- Junior School students will be encouraged to wear masks on buses and trains;
- all students are asked to be conscious of social distancing and personal hygiene while using communal transport and should sanitise their hands upon entry and exit.