



Changes to the previous version are highlighted in blue

## 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 the remainder of 2022.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

Schools have an obligation to take all reasonably practicable steps to protect the health and safety of all employees and students. Independent schools make decisions about these measures for themselves, using all available advice. The number of externally imposed regulations that apply to schools is decreasing, however the advice to schools emphasises each school's obligation to plan for business as usual in a COVID-safe way by implementing school-based risk assessment processes and risk mitigation to enable continuity of education and to support wellbeing.

### 3 PURPOSE

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. This document outlines the approach our School will take in managing this ongoing risk. It contains policy decisions, a rationale for those decisions, guidelines for staff and other contextual information. The approach outlined is compliant with all relevant legislation, has been devised with relevant risks in mind and has been informed by advice from NSW Health, the NSW Department of Education and Training, and the Association of Independent Schools NSW. In most cases our approach will meet or exceed community standards and expectations.

### 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will remain active until an update is issued, the document is completely replaced by a new version or the document is withdrawn and not replaced.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

From Midnight on 13 May 2022 education and care workers will no longer be required to be fully vaccinated.

### 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 may be required is where a student wishes 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.

### 7 PARENT VACCINATIONS

Parents are now permitted on site for certain events with or without vaccination.

### 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, the regulations in relation to vaccinations will change as of 13 May 2022. Until then, volunteers will be advised how they might provide an appropriate type of evidence of full COVID-19 vaccination if relevant. The next BMGS COVID-Safety Plan will address any changes to this requirement.



# PART C PREVENTING ILLNESS DURING WINTER

## 10 TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

All students and their families are asked to follow NSW Health's advice to reduce the risk of not only COVID-19, but also other illnesses, such as the flu, that may affect themselves and others in the School community this winter. Among the strategies community members are considering are:

- having a flu vaccine;
- remaining fully vaccinated for COVID-19;
- stay home if unwell and test for COVID-19;
- practise good hand hygiene by washing regularly with soap and water.

## 11 SYMPTOMATIC TESTING

The NSW Government's program of 'symptomatic testing' commenced on 28 February 2022 and will remain in place throughout Term 2.

### 11.1 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 COVID-related symptoms or for any other reason, they wish to ensure they have not contracted COVID-19 and are safe to mix in public.

### 11.2 Distribution

This program is supported by the NSW Government's provision of additional RAHT kits to be used by Household/Close Contacts, and otherwise for students at the discretion of parents, for the remainder of Term 2. Participating families have been given a supply of RAHT kits for student use. When this supply runs out families are asked to approach a School receptionist for further kits.

### 11.3 Administration of RAHTs

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

### 11.4 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.

### 11.5 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.

### 11.6 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

### 11.7 What About Negative Test Results

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

# PART D HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS

## 12 REGULATIONS REGARDING HOUSEHOLD/CLOSE CONTACTS

### 12.1 Close Contacts

A close contact is someone who has been formally notified by NSW Health that they are a close contact.

### 12.2 What is a Household Contact?

A household contact is a person who has not tested positive for COVID-19, but lives with someone who has. Such a person remains a Household Contact for 7 days from the last time someone in their household tested positive for COVID-19. This is a significant change from the previous definition.

### 12.3 Household Contacts who recently had COVID

In the 12 weeks after a person has been cleared from being COVID-19 Positive they cannot become a Household/Close Contact. The criteria for Household/Close Contacts, and the requirements imposed upon them, again apply after this 12 week period elapses.

### 12.4 What does the Government Require of Household/Close Contacts?

Household/Close contacts were once required to isolate for 7 days. This is no longer required. NSW Health advises that, where practicable, Household/Close contacts work or study from home to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. In addition, NSW Health requires that all Household/Close Contacts take the following precautions.

For a period of 7 days, and preferably for a further optional 7 days, Household/Close contacts are required to:

- wear a mask in indoor settings outside of the home (over 12 years of age)
- undertake daily RAHT before coming into contact with people outside the home
- avoid contact with the elderly/immunocompromised
- not visit aged care, hospitals, disability and correctional facilities unless an exemption applies

## 13 SCHOOL MEASURES FOR HOUSEHOLD/CLOSE CONTACTS

Despite loosening the constraints on the community, the NSW Government's priority remains the reduction of the spread of COVID-19. In order to achieve this, they are placing much of the responsibility for sensible risk-based decision-making on individuals and organisations. They have, however, kept some requirements in place, including the wearing of a mask when indoors. Our School has chosen an approach that focuses on masks and sensible social distancing as the key criteria in deciding whether a student can attend School whilst a Household/Close Contact.

### 13.1 Students in Pre-K to Year 2 Who Are Household/Close Contacts

The School knows that young students cannot, or do not, effectively wear masks or socially distance themselves from others and therefore cannot cater for the safety of themselves or those around them. For this reason, when a student enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2 becomes a Household/Close Contact:

- The family must inform the School as soon as they become aware by emailing the relevant campus.
- The student is required to learn from home for five (5) school days whilst complying with the NSW Health precautions above.

### 13.2 Students in Year 3 – 12 Who Are Household/Close Contacts and Unable to Wear a Mask

When a student in Year 3 – 12 who is exempt from wearing a mask or unable to effectively wear a mask has become a Household/Close Contact:

- The family must inform the School as soon as they become aware by emailing the relevant campus.
- The student is required to learn from home for five (5) school days whilst complying with the NSW Health precautions above.

### 13.3 Students in Year 3 – 12 Who Are Household/Close Contacts and Able to Wear a Mask

Senior School students who are able to wear a mask and who become a Household/Close Contact are permitted to attend School. The following conditions will apply for the five (5) school days they are considered a Household/Close Contact.

- The family must inform the School as soon as they become aware by emailing the relevant campus.
- The student must receive a negative RAHT result each day before attending School.
- The student will effectively wear a mask indoors.
- The student must accept a range of other risk-based constraints imposed upon their classroom and/or cocurricular engagement. This is likely to include not attending any School camps. A member of School staff will make these expectations clear to both the student and other relevant staff.

## 14 INFORMING THE SCHOOL

When a family must inform the School that a student is a Household/Close Contact they should use the following addresses.

- Junior School Springwood – [eborros@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:eborros@bmgns.nsw.edu.au)
- Junior School Wentworth Falls – [karrell@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:karrell@bmgns.nsw.edu.au)
- Senior School – [seniorschool@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:seniorschool@bmgns.nsw.edu.au)

# PART E WHAT IF SICK?

## 15 COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS

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

### 15.1 Underlying Conditions

Any student with an underlying illness that gives rise to COVID symptoms must initially provide the School with a doctor's certificate (or other suitable evidence as determined by the School) that describes the symptoms and assures the School the symptoms are not evidence of COVID-19 or any other transmissible infection.

### 15.2 Obvious Symptoms

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

### 15.3 Returning to School

When no cold or flu symptoms exist and a negative RAHT is received students are free to return to School.

## 16 CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19

### 16.1 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 any positive COVID test (PCR or RAHT) to the relevant School reception.
  - Junior School Springwood – [absencejss@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejss@bmgns.nsw.edu.au)
  - Junior School Wentworth Falls – [absencejs@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencejs@bmgns.nsw.edu.au)
  - Senior School – [absencess@bmgns.nsw.edu.au](mailto:absencess@bmgns.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
- report positive RAHTs to Service NSW;
- 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.

Where a student receives 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. Staff documentation will be forwarded to the Headmaster's Assistant and placed on file.

### 16.2 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 WHO IS PERMITTED ON CAMPUS?

### 17 VISITORS PERMITTED ON SITE

#### 17.1 All Visitors

All visitors (whether vaccinated or not) are now permitted on Campus, as long as they are not Household/Close Contact, however they 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);
- declare that they are not a Household/Close Contact;
- 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.

#### 17.2 Parents

Parents (whether vaccinated or not) are now permitted on Campus under the conditions that apply to all visitors.

#### 17.3 Volunteers

Until the School changes this requirement, 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.

#### 17.4 Uniform Shop

Students and parents/carers can visit the uniform shop during normal operating hours.

## PART G PERSONAL & COMMUNITY HYGIENE

### 18 SOCIAL DISTANCING

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

### 19 FACE MASKS OR COVERINGS

#### 19.1 Masks Typically Not Required

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.

#### 19.2 When are Masks Required?

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

#### 19.3 Masks May Be Required

The School may choose to require masks be worn as a risk mitigation strategy for certain School events or activities. In such cases the wearing of masks would be a condition of participation.

#### 19.4 Visitors

Visitors to the campus and School events are not required to wear masks unless Event Supervisors require it as a condition of participation.

### 20 PERSONAL HYGIENE

All persons on campus are expected to:

- 20.1 cough or sneeze into their elbow; and
- 20.2 dispose of tissues and other personal use items immediately into the bin.
- 20.3 wash their hands regularly and/or use hand sanitiser throughout the day.
  - At key locations, such as entry and exit points of spaces, the School will provide hand sanitiser.
  - At the beginning of each lesson, teachers are to publicly sanitise their hands and ensure students do the same.

### 21 EQUIPMENT HYGIENE

21.1 The School will sanitise all high touch surfaces each evening, after the school day concludes.

21.2 Senior School students will continue to sanitise relevant surfaces and resources when they enter a space and when they leave.

## 22 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.

## 23 COMMUNAL TRANSPORT

In relation to communal transport:

- Senior School students must, and Junior School students will be encouraged, to wear masks;
- 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.

# PART H ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS

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

There are no constraints on classroom and cocurricular activities.

## 25 ONLINE TEACHING AND LEARNING

Teachers will provide work for students attempting to learn from home for COVID-related reasons.

### 25.1 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. 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.

### 25.2 Senior School

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

# PART I SCHOOL SPORT

## 26 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SPORT

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

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

## 27 GOING OUT FOR SPORT

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

27.1 Where communal transport is required, adults and Senior School students will wear masks.

27.2 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.

27.3 Where participating in Community sport, the School will comply with any conditions of participation.

## 28 ISA SPORT

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

28.1 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.

28.2 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 school policies and whilst we will attempt to communicate these to families, this will not always be possible