



Bacchus Marsh  
Grammar

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15 October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions (No 5)**

As you may be aware, the Victorian Government has announced that COVID-19 vaccinations will be mandatory in schools and early childhood centres.

This announcement outlines how the Government's mandate will impact the Bacchus Marsh Grammar (School) community, particularly staff and parents.

### **The Health Directions**

The [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions \(No 5\)](#) (Health Directions) set out the steps that the School must take in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 in school settings.

These steps include:

- **collecting, recording and holding vaccination information regarding staff who may work on school premises;**
- **preventing unvaccinated staff from working on school premises, except in limited circumstances; and**
- **ensuring that personal protective equipment is worn by staff in specific situations.**

In practice, the Health Directions will have the following impact:

- **Staff who are unvaccinated will not be able to attend work from 18 October 2021, unless they have a medical contraindication or have made a booking to receive a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination by 25 October 2021 (in which case they must wear PPE at all times, which at a minimum includes a surgical mask and a face shield).**
- **Staff must be fully vaccinated by 29 November 2021, unless they have a medical contraindication.**
- **Where the School does not hold vaccination information about a member of staff, the School must treat the staff member as unvaccinated.**

### **What do the Health Directions mean for you?**

The Health Directions apply not only to employees and contractors, but also volunteers who attend the School and work in close proximity to children, students or staff. This includes parent volunteers.



The Health Directions indicate that it is desirable that those in close proximity to children, students or staff on school sites are vaccinated against COVID-19. Accordingly, to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the school community the School has decided that it is appropriate to continue to **restrict entry to the school grounds to:**

- **Employees and contractors (provided they comply with the Health Directions, or are exempt).**
- **Students.**
- **Parents and individuals with school authorised appointments. Authorised appointments will only be made if evidence is supplied that by 18 October 2021 you are fully vaccinated, or that you will have received your first dose by 25 October and be fully vaccinated by 29 November, or that you have a medical contraindication. Those with medical contraindications will be required to wear PPE whilst on site.**

**Drop off and pick up may still occur in designated areas within the School gates, with rules regarding the wearing of masks and social distancing remaining in place.**

#### **What if you have a medical contraindication?**

If you have a medical contraindication, you should not attend or work at the School until your exemption status has been approved in writing.

#### **How do you provide proof of a vaccination or booking, or medical contraindication?**

You can provide the School with evidence of your vaccination status (including proof of vaccination or booking, or evidence of any relevant medical contraindication) by email to Kerry Brown, Risk, Compliance and Policy Manager at [brownek@bmg.vic.edu.au](mailto:brownek@bmg.vic.edu.au) no later than 12pm on 15 October 2021.

Evidence of vaccination status can include:

- **A vaccination certificate or other evidence from a vaccine provider.**
- **An immunisation history statement which can be accessed from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.**
- **A statement of your vaccination history which you can request from the Australian Immunisation Register.**
- **A record from a health practitioner.**

The School is collecting vaccination information to:

- **comply with the Health Directions; and**
- **enable the School to manage the risks to staff, students and the school community arising from COVID-19, including preparing for any possible future outbreaks.**

When collecting vaccination information, the School will comply with its *Privacy Policy*, which is available at <https://www.bmg.vic.edu.au/our-school/our-policies/>

Vaccination information will be securely stored and kept confidential and will only be accessible to people who are required to access it. You can request to access your vaccination record information at any time and can also request that any relevant updates are made to it.



Please note that School is required to provide access to vaccination information to an Authorised Officer under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (Vic) if requested to demonstrate compliance with the Health Directions.

I appreciate that the above measures, which the School is taking to comply with the Health Directions and otherwise minimise the transmission of COVID-19 in the school community, will have a way on the way the School and staff interact with you. I also acknowledge that members of our school community will understandably have different views regarding the Health Directions.

We are working together to minimise disruption and ensure that the education and safety of our students remains our priority during this challenging time.

If you have any questions, please contact me through my Executive Assistant Michelle Graham.

Thank you for your continued support to our School.

Kind regards,

**Mr Andrew A. Neal - Principal**