

21 October 2021

Dear Parents,

CovidSafe Policy Update- Parent responsibilities for return to campus

Firstly, I wish to thank you for your commitment to the safety of our school this past week as we have navigated a positive COVID-19 case.

As we prepare for our return to campus, I ask you to please familiarise yourself with this document, which outlines the requirements of all parents when dropping their children off, or attending the School. Please be aware these requirements are Government mandated and require full compliance by all parents and the School in order for us to re-open to onsite learning.

Importantly, the Victorian Government has announced that COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory in all schools and early childhood centres.

The measures outlined below relate to all visitors to campus. This includes parents. Put simply, we will not be allowed to open the school to on-site learning if we do not all adhere to these rules.

Government Health Directions

The [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions \(No 8\)](#) (Health Direction) set out the steps that the School must take in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 in a school settings.

These steps include:

- Collecting, recording and holding vaccination information of staff on school premises
- Preventing unvaccinated staff from working on school premises, except in limited circumstances
- Ensuring that personal protective equipment is worn by staff in specific situations

In practice, these Health Directions mean the following:

- Staff who are unvaccinated will not be able to attend work from **18 October 2021**, unless they have a medical exemption, are unable to attend an appointment due to a self-quarantine direction 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)

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- Where a staff member is unable to attend an appointment due to a self-quarantine direction, they must have made a booking to receive a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination within 7 days of the end of the period of self-quarantine.
- Staff must be fully vaccinated by **29 November 2021**, unless they have a medical exemption
- Where the School does not hold vaccination information about a member of staff, the School must treat the staff member as unvaccinated

Who do the Health Directions apply to and what does this mean for you?

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

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

If the School does not have evidence 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 or unable to make a booking due to a period of self-quarantine, you will not be permitted to attend the School while the Health Directions remain in place.

If you were unable to attend a vaccination appointment due to a self-quarantine order you must make a booking to receive your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination within 7 days of the end of the period of self-quarantine. Drop off and pick up for unvaccinated parents may only occur in designated areas outside the School gates.

What if you have a medical exemption?

If you have a medical exemption, 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 exemption?

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 Skye Bryant,

Executive Assistant to the Business Manager at sbryant@pgs.vic.edu.au no later than **72 hours prior** to attending the School site.

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 an authorised medical practitioner.

The School is collecting vaccination information to:

- Comply with the Health Directions and
- To enable the School to manage the risks to staff, students and the school community arising from Covid-19- including protecting against future outbreaks


If you choose not to provide the School with your vaccination status, you will be required to comply with the guidelines for unvaccinated members of the school community and will not be permitted to enter the school.

All vaccination information the School collects is stored securely and complies with our strict *Privacy Policy*, which is available [here](#). Please note this information must be provided to authorised officers under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)* if requested, to demonstrate compliance with Health Directions. You can request a copy of this information or to update it via the email address provided above.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation in complying with the above compulsory Health Directions. These measures ensure we minimize transmission and keep our school community safe.

If you have any questions, please contact the School Safety Officer, Karen Church on 9788 7810

Yours faithfully,



Stuart Johnston
Principal