



EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS

7 October 2021

Dear Parents

RE: COVID-19 MANDATORY VACCINATION GOVERNMENT HEALTH DIRECTIONS

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

This announcement outlines how the Government's mandate will impact the Oakleigh Grammar community, particularly staff and parents.

There is currently no mandate for students to be vaccinated and as such Oakleigh Grammar does not require students to be vaccinated. However, along with state government advice, we do recommend that students over the age of 12 in conjunction with their parents, seek information from their GP or a senior official at a state government run hub about vaccination so that families can make an informed choice.

The Health Directions

The [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions \(No 5\)](#) (Health Directions) set out the steps that Oakleigh Grammar 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 Oakleigh Grammar does not hold vaccination information about a member of staff, we must treat the staff member as unvaccinated.



OAKLEIGH GRAMMAR

ABN: 32 337 676 694
Address: 77-81 Willesden Road, Oakleigh Vic 3166
Phone: (03) 9569 6128
Email: reception@oakleighgrammar.vic.edu.au
Website: www.oakleighgrammar.vic.edu.au
Correspondence to: PO Box 2120 Oakleigh Vic 3166
CRICOS Registration Number: 03423G

Compliance with Health Directions. What do the Health Directions mean for you?

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

Accordingly, if you wish to continue volunteering at Oakleigh Grammar whilst the Health Directions are in operation, you will need to provide details regarding your vaccination status (including proof of vaccination or booking, or evidence of any relevant medical contraindication).

If Oakleigh Grammar does not have evidence

- by 18 October that you are fully vaccinated or that by 25 October you will have your first dose;
- and by 29 November that you will be fully vaccinated; or
- that you have a medical contraindication;

then you will not be permitted to volunteer at Oakleigh Grammar whilst the Health Directions remain in force.

These restrictions apply to volunteer activities only. Families may still attend Oakleigh Grammar for drop off and pick up, although we ask that families refrain from entering the school grounds to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the school community.

What if you have a medical contraindication?

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

How do Parent Volunteers provide proof of a vaccination or booking, or medical contraindication?

You can provide Oakleigh Grammar with evidence of your vaccination status (including proof of vaccination or booking, or evidence of any relevant medical contraindication) by email to our First Aid Officer, Mrs Vicki Keith by email firstaidofficer@oakleighgrammar.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.
- We do not require evidence of your full vaccination history, only your COVID vaccination status.

Oakleigh Grammar is collecting vaccination information to:

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



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When collecting vaccination information, Oakleigh Grammar will comply with its *Privacy Policy*, which is attached.

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 Oakleigh Grammar 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.

How will Victoria's Roadmap affect our ELC parents?

Currently, Oakleigh Grammar's Early Learning Centre is open to children who are vulnerable and children of single parents and Authorised Workers.

However, *Victoria's Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan* indicates that the Victorian Government intends that:

- Early Learning Centres will be open for children with fully vaccinated parent(s) once 70 per cent of the Victorian population aged 16+ are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The indicative date for this to occur is 26 October 2021.
- Once 80 per cent are fully vaccinated, ELCs will fully open without parent vaccination restrictions.

Please note that Oakleigh Grammar is currently awaiting further details regarding the Victorian Government's health directions in relation to the mandatory vaccination requirements for ELC parents. I will share further information about these requirements, and any exemptions which apply, when the relevant health directions have been released.

I appreciate that the above measures, which Oakleigh Grammar is taking to comply with the Health Directions and otherwise minimise the transmission of COVID-19 in the school community, will have an impact on the way Oakleigh Grammar's 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 our First Aid Officer, Mrs Vicki Keith. Thank you for your continued support and understanding at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely



Mark Robertson

Principal

B Ed, M Ed St, FACEL, MACE, AFAIM, GAICD



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