



GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Covid-19 Vaccination Policy – Timbertop Students 2023

1. POLICY STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 The School is committed to the health and safety of its students, School Employees and broader School community, which includes preventing the spread of diseases such as COVID-19 on campus and amongst members of the School community.
- 1.2 There is a high risk of COVID-19 infection in the context of a boarding school environment which requires Students to regularly come into contact each day with a large section of the School community (including other Students, School Employees, parents, Third Party Contractors and Volunteers).
- 1.3 COVID-19 vaccines are an effective means of reducing the risk of spreading COVID-19 between Students, School Employees, contractors, volunteers and the community at large. COVID-19 vaccines can also reduce the severity of the impact that COVID-19 has on people, if they contract the virus.
- 1.4 The School recognises that having a vaccine, including the COVID-19 vaccine, is a personal choice. The School has, however, determined that the most effective way to meet its health and safety obligations at the Timbertop campus, and its duty of care to its Students and School Employees at the Timbertop campus is to require that by 1 February 2023 being the date of the commencement of the 2023 School year, all Students who attend the School's Timbertop campus may only be enrolled and attend at the School if they are either fully vaccinated against COVID-19, or they are covered by a medical exemption.
- 1.5 This Policy sets out the measures which the School will take to ensure that Students are vaccinated in compliance with the School's Policy and outlines the limited exemptions which are available.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all Students who are enrolled to attend the Timbertop campus (Please refer to *Covid-19 Vaccination Policy – School Employees* for requirements for School Employees and *Covid-19 Vaccination Policy – Contractors and Volunteers* for requirements for contractors and volunteers).
- 2.2 **Students** is defined to mean any student who attends the School's Timbertop.
- 2.3 **COVID-19 vaccine** means a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia, or where a person has been vaccinated overseas, a World Health Organisation-COVAX approved COVID 19 vaccine.
- 2.4 A Student is **fully vaccinated against COVID-19** if the Student has received either:
 - 2.4.1 two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with the current Department of Health advice (noting this requirement may be updated upon review of ATAGI advice regarding booster vaccinations); or
 - 2.4.2 two doses of a non-Therapeutic Goods Administration approved COVID-19 vaccine **and** a COVID-19 booster vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia.

3. COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 As a condition of enrolment, the School requires that by 1 February 2023, being the date of the commencement of the 2023 School year at the Timbertop campus, all Students who attend the School's Timbertop campus, may only be enrolled and attend at the School if they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they are covered by a medical exemption as per clause 4.
- 3.2 To ensure that Students have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine by 1 February 2023, being the date of the commencement of the 2023 School year at the Timbertop campus, Students should take the following steps (if they have not done so already):
 - 3.2.1 If relevant, seek medical advice regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, as it relates to them;



- 3.2.2 If Students do not fall within one of the medical exemptions outlined below, make appointments to receive a first and second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine;
 - 3.2.3 Where Students fall within one of the medical exemptions outlined below, obtain a medical exemption certificate;
 - 3.2.4 When Students receive their first and second COVID-19 vaccine dose, ensure they keep a record of these on their mobile phone, or otherwise carry a copy of the Vaccination Certificate, particularly if Students travel to offsite venues who require confirmation of vaccination status; and
 - 3.2.5 Provide the School with confirmation that the Student has received both doses of their COVID-19 vaccine together with a copy of the Student's Vaccination Certificate by email to timbertopvaccinations@ggs.vic.edu.au.
- 3.3 Students can access COVID-19 vaccines at various locations including vaccination hubs, roving clinics, general practices, some pharmacies. The dedicated COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline 1800 020 080 can answer any questions Students may have about vaccination and can provide assistance to book a vaccination appointment. Vaccines are free, and do not require a Medicare card to make an appointment or receive the vaccination.

4. MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS FROM COVID-19 VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The School recognises the following medical exemptions to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine:
- 4.1.1 anaphylaxis after a previous dose;
 - 4.1.2 anaphylaxis to any component of the vaccine, including polysorbate or polyethylene glycol;
 - 4.1.3 in relation to AstraZeneca:
 - 4.1.3.1 history of capillary leak syndrome; or
 - 4.1.3.2 thrombosis with thrombocytopenia occurring after a previous dose;
 - 4.1.4 in relation to Comirnaty or Spikevax:
 - 4.1.4.1 myocarditis or pericarditis attributed to a previous dose of either Comirnaty or Spikevax; or
 - 4.1.4.2 the occurrence of any other serious adverse event that has:
 - 4.1.4.2.1 been attributed to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by an experienced immunisation provider or medical specialist (and not attributed to any another identifiable cause); and
 - 4.1.4.2.2 been reported to State adverse event programs and/or the Therapeutic Goods Administration; or
 - 4.1.5 certification from a registered medical practitioner that a person is unable to receive a dose, or a further dose, of a COVID-19 vaccine due to an acute medical illness.
- 4.2 If a Student has a medical exemption, they should provide the School with a medical certificate from an Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency registered medical practitioner:
- 4.2.1 certifying that the Student is unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination because they have a medical exemption;
 - 4.2.2 identifying the relevant medical exemption;
 - 4.2.3 indicating whether the medical exemption will permanently or temporarily prevent COVID-19 vaccination; and
 - 4.2.4 if the medical exemption only temporarily prevents a COVID-19 vaccination, specifying when the Student may be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.
- 4.3 The medical exemption should be provided in writing and sent by email to timbertopvaccinations@ggs.vic.edu.au at the earliest opportunity and no later than **1 September 2022**.



- 4.4 If a registered medical practitioner certifies that a Student has a temporary medical exemption, which makes them unable to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, any exemption based on this only applies for the period specified in the medical certificate provided by the medical practitioner. If the medical reason continues beyond that period, the Student must provide a new medical certificate from their doctor, regarding the medical exemption.
- 4.5 A Student with a medical exemption can attend on campus but will be required to enter into a **COVID-19 Management Plan (a Plan)**. The Plan must be discussed and formulated in conjunction with the Student's treating medical practitioner and a member of the Health Centre or nurse on the relevant campus in order to mitigate risks. Once prepared, the Plan will require the approval of the School's Senior Medical Officer. The Student, the subject of the Plan, will be monitored for compliance with the Plan and the Plan will be the subject of immediate review should the Student's circumstances relevant to the medical exemption change or otherwise, the Plan will be reviewed at the commencement of each School Term. The Plan will be developed specific to the Student's circumstances and may include required daily mask wearing, regular COVID-19 PCR testing and rapid antigen testing.

5. UN-VACCINATED STUDENTS WITHOUT AN EXEMPTION

- 5.1 At 1 February 2023, being the date of the commencement of the 2023 School year at the Timbertop campus, if the School does not hold vaccination details or a medical exemption for a Student, the Student may not be enrolled at the School.
- 5.2 If a Student cannot comply with this Policy because they are un-vaccinated without a medical exemption, the Student will be required to withdraw from the School. This Policy does not contain an exemption for a Student who objects to the COVID-19 vaccination on personal, political or religious grounds
- 5.3 The School will waive the one Term's notice requirement in the School's current Conditions of Entry for any Student who wishes to withdraw from the School prior to the commencement of Term 2, 2022 pursuant to the operation of this Policy.

6. NEW STUDENTS

- 6.1 Students enrolled at the School after this Policy is implemented will also be required to comply with the COVID-19 vaccination requirements. These requirements must be met before the Student commences at the School.
- 6.2 Vaccination information is collected by the Admissions Team during the enrolment process. Enrolment offers for the Timbertop campus will be subject to the Student being required to meet the terms of this Policy and in particular, clause 3.1. If a future Student has a medical exemption from complying with this Policy they must promptly notify the Admissions Team by email to admissions@ggs.vic.edu.au

7. POLICY LIMITATIONS

- 7.1 The School reserves the right to amend, replace or terminate this Policy from time to time.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 8.1 Geelong Grammar School Privacy Policy
- 8.2 COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Contraindication Form (this can be obtained from your General Practitioner)
- 8.3 Links

[Are COVID-19 vaccines safe?](#)

[Australian Immunisation Register](#)

[COVID-19 vaccine information in your language](#)

9. Definitions

the School	means Geelong Grammar School including its registered boarding premises
School Employee	means, for the purposes of this Policy, any person employed to work in a school (including teaching staff, early childhood educators, educational support staff, operational staff, student teachers and directly employed casual staff).
School Executive	means the Principal, Vice Principal, Director of Operations and Shared Services and Director of Safeguarding and Legal Services



Students	means all students enrolled at the School's Timbertop campus
Third Party Contractor	means a third party service provider engaged by the School to provide a service to the School and or its students.
Volunteer	means people who assist the School in some capacity, whether directly or indirectly, with School activities, who will have access to students (including virtual/online) or student places of study (i.e. campus, School camp or sporting event, hosting accommodation) including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a volunteer or a contracted service provider engaged in School activities (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary); and• homestay providers

10. Review and circulation

Responsible Department:	Executive
Version:	3
Approved by:	School Council
Effective Date:	22 June 2022
Review Date:	22 June 2023
Location:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timbertop Campus
Audience:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Website