



Bialik College COVID-Safe Plan – 27 January 2022

Bialik College

Following the [AHPPC](#) advice, social distancing must be considered by schools outside the classroom environment, and particularly with regards adults. Students are encouraged to ‘maintain 1.5m distance when entering or leaving a classroom.’ The principle behind this is to discourage mingling between year levels. Mingling within a year level is permitted.

Hygiene practices

Bialik College ensures hand hygiene posters and procedures (including alcohol-based hand sanitiser) and information about COVID-19 are displayed clearly at the front entry and communicated to families through email, newsletters and social media. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is available for use by adults and older students. If parents decide to apply this to their child, they must supervise the child until the hand sanitiser is dry, never let the child lick their hands immediately after, avoid rubbing it into their eyes or a child swallowing the gel/liquid.

The College supplies disposable tissues and there are bins available in several locations for disposing used items.

All campus attendees and members of their household must comply with the following:

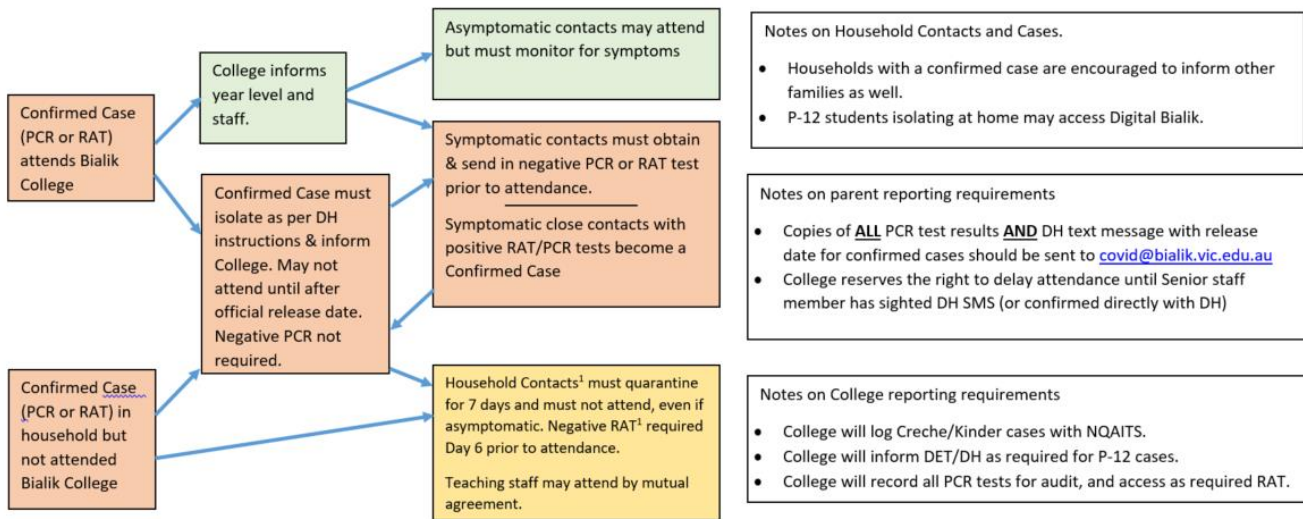
- Families must immediately advise Bialik College if they, or anyone in their family or anyone employed in their family home, receives a positive diagnosis of the COVID-19 whilst in isolation.
- Any person (employee, enrolled student, parent, caregiver, visitor or contractor) who is displaying symptoms such as: fever, coughing, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue or shortness of breath (even if symptoms are mild), must be tested for COVID-19 via a PCR or RAT and must not attend Bialik College **under any circumstance until a negative result is obtained.**
- **Children must not be given Paracetamol (or similar medicines) to reduce a temperature prior to attending school.**
- **If your child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood as soon as possible.**
- A medical certificate from the child’s treating GP may be required to confirm that it is safe for them to attend school with persistent symptoms that may overlap with some of the symptoms of COVID-19, such as cough or runny nose. The College will consider the certificate as part of its decision as to permitting campus attendance.
- Household contacts of confirmed cases must, in line with government advice, quarantine for 7 days. The College must be informed by email, covid@bialik.vic.edu.au, in this instance.

If a staff member is informed by a parent, student or other community member, that a member of the school community has tested positive, they are to immediately email(covid@bialik.vic.edu.au).

Quick Reference Flow Chart

Covid Case Management at Bialik College from 25 Jan 2022

With society changing from 'pandemic' management to 'endemic' management, below are the Bialik protocols in line with DET/DH (Dept of Health) regulations.



¹Those who have had, and recovered from, Covid in the last 30 days are exempt from RAT testing and isolation/quarantine obligations.

Use of Face Masks

In line with the Chief Health Officer's mask mandate, all staff, campus visitors and students Years 3 and above must wear a face mask while indoors, or when they cannot socially distance outdoors. Anyone refusing to wear a mask indoors will not be permitted to enter the campus. Anyone already on the campus who refuses to wear a mask indoors will be removed and, in the case of a student, their parents will be contacted to collect them immediately. Students may be sent home for repeat infringements of not carrying or wearing a mask when required. Masks must be worn on public transport and school buses. Slogans or offensive imagery on masks are not permitted. Disposable and reusable masks are available for purchase at the Creche, ELC and Main receptions. Students are only permitted to remove their mask while eating or actively exercising outdoors.

Only those who present a medical or disability exemption are permitted onto the campus without a mask. This exemption must take the form of a formal letter from a medical practitioner (with prescribing authority, such as a GP or specialist medical doctor) informing the College of the medical or disability exemption from the mask mandate. Students with exemptions are required to obtain a pass and carry it with them at all times.

Implement effective hygiene measures

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds whenever you cough, sneeze or blow your nose, prepare food or eat, touch your face or use the toilet.

- On arrival all employees, parents, and visitors must use the hand sanitiser located at guard station.
- P-12 children are to be dropped off at the guard station.
- All staff and students will proceed immediately on arrival to sanitise their hands / wash their hands with soap and water.
- Hands must be thoroughly dried using disposal paper and disposed of in the bin provided.
- Disposable tissues must be used to wipe noses, eyes or mouths and disposed of in the bin provided immediately after use.
- Hands must be washed following the use of tissues.
- Hands must be washed thoroughly using soap and water before and after using the toilet.
- Cough and sneeze etiquette must be used - cough and sneeze into your elbow
- Younger children are supervised when washing hands.

- There is no sharing of food or water bottles and students from Year 2 upwards are encouraged to bring their own pencil cases and equipment.
- Staff should regularly clean high touch personal items such as mobile phones and are encouraged to bring their own cleaning materials to school to facilitate this.
- Staff will wash their hands or use alcohol-based sanitiser before wearing gloves, and wash their hands after wearing gloves.
- Face masks, as well as disposable gloves and tissues must be disposed of in the labelled grey with red lid pedal bins located throughout the school.
- For a guide to proper use and disposal of face masks, click [here](#).
- Protocols for wearing a face mask, face shield or safety glasses can be found [here](#).
- Equipment, resources and surfaces including high-touch surfaces - taps, door handles, light switches, etc. will be cleaned more frequently as required using detergent and water followed by disinfectant.
- Cleaning contractors hygienically clean Bialik College to reduce risk of contamination is removed as per [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Principles for COVID-19](#)

Parent Access and Drop off/Collection Arrangements (Maximum 1 Adult per family)

Age/Year Level	Drop off AM	Pick up PM	Notes
Creche	Only 1 escorts child to Creche entry in the entry passageway, maintaining social distancing and wait for the educator to welcome and receive child at the sliding glass doors. Educator will escort the child to hand washing station.	1 adult to collect child in the entry passageway outside of the Creche sliding glass doors. No entry into the Creche is permitted.	Siblings of Creche children not permitted to enter the Creche front doors. Waiting benches undercover are available outside.
Kinders 3 & 4 And BOSH	Only 1 adult escorts child to room entry, maintaining social distancing, waits for the educator to escort child to hand washing station and leaves immediately. Educator will sign in children by 9.00am. Late children signed in by reception.	Maintaining social distancing, 1 adult to collect at or before 3.30pm outside of the ELC building. Educator will sign children out.	Siblings of Kinder children not permitted to enter the ELC.
Prep-Year 1	Children to be dropped off at gates to the College and hands sanitised. Parents are permitted to escort their children to the playground if necessary but not permitted to enter any school buildings.	Maintaining social distancing, 1 adult to collect from ELC undercroft / playground area but is not permitted to enter any school buildings.	

Age/Year Level	Drop off AM	Pick up PM	Notes
Years 2 - 5	Children to be dropped off at gates to the College and hands sanitised.	Maintaining social distancing, 1 adult to collect from ELC undercroft / playground area but is not permitted to enter any school buildings.	Students must exit the campus promptly after classes conclude.
Years 6 - 12	Children to be dropped off at gates to the College and hands sanitised. Parents not to enter campus.	All students to exit campus unescorted unless they have a Creche – Year 2 sibling.	Students must exit the campus promptly after classes conclude.
After School Activities	Only vaccinated parents may enter buildings.		

Social distancing at Bialik College

Bialik College:

- o encourages parents/guardians to drop P-12 child/ren off at the security gate and immediately disburse;
- o monitors large groups to provide flexible learning to aspire for groups to be smaller in both the indoor and outdoor environment;
- o opens windows when practicable and consider outdoor learning when appropriate; practises social distancing when co-working adults share a room.
- o aspires to reduce situations when students are required to queue - waiting their turn to use bathroom, waiting their turn to use a piece of equipment etc.

Suspected cases of COVID-19 at Bialik College

As per our *Sick Child Policy* we reserve the right to refuse a student if:

- o they are unwell and unable to participate in normal activities or require additional attention;
- o they have had a temperature/fever, or vomiting in the last 24 hours;
- o they have had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours;
- o they have been given medication for a temperature prior to arriving at Bialik College;
- o they have started a course of antibiotics in the last 24 hours or
- o any member of the College staff has reasonable grounds to believe that a child has a contagious or infectious disease (this includes, but is not exclusive to, COVID-19).

If a child becomes ill whilst at Bialik College, educators/staff will respond to their individual symptoms of illness and provide comfort and care.

- o Educators will take the student's temperature. If the temperature is above 37.5°C, parents will be contacted immediately and are required to collect their child within 30 minutes. If parents are unable to collect their child, an emergency contact person will be contacted, and they must collect the child within 30 minutes.

Educators will attempt to lower a child's temperature by:

- o encouraging removal of excessive clothing;
- o encouraging students to take small sips of water;
- o moving the child to a quiet area where they can rest whilst waiting to be picked up.

Educators will wear disposable gloves and face mask where appropriate to avoid possible contamination whilst caring for sick child.

Parents are reminded to ensure their contact details are current and emergency contact details are updated if required.

Bialik College also reserves the right to prevent employees, parents, family members or visitors to enter our premises if the College suspects instances of COVID-19 or close contacts with a case.

Talking to children about COVID-19

As per our *Interactions with Children, Families and Staff Policy*, Bialik College is committed to maintaining positive interactions and relationships with students and their families. Information provided to students about COVID-19 is age appropriate and sensitive to their emotional wellbeing. Educators acknowledge student's concerns and are open to discussions about COVID-19.

Educators inform students about the virus and emphasise preventative measures such as handwashing, use of tissues, cough and sneeze techniques and limiting touching other student's faces.

Posters demonstrating correct handwashing methods are referred to and educators model techniques.

All educators and staff will closely monitor students' emotional well-being and any concerns communicated with parents and families. Student questions are respected and supported.

In the event of the campus being closed as a precaution to limit the spread of the virus, information will be provided to parents/families to help explain the situation to students.

Communicating with families

Bialik College will continue regular communication channels with families and share information about COVID-19 as required.

Active Lessons – (eg Kitchen Garden, Labs work, Choir, Music & Tefilah/Prayer)

- Ensure hands washed before and after and instruct not to touch face.
- Minimise contact.
- Adapt where necessary.
- Teacher to incorporate disinfecting of all kitchen surfaces, appliances, garden tools, lab equipment, etc. into final 5 minutes of every lesson.
- Follow Instrumental Music Policy and restrictions on voice and instruments.
- Follow Science Equipment Policy for proper cleaning.
- Spray and cloths are available in each sub-school administration office and at other key locations for staff to use.
- There is no limit on the number of students or staff singing outdoors.

Additional Cleaning

- Exam tables and chairs are cleaned between exams.
- All toilets on campus have a full middle-of-day clean.
- All zones throughout the school will have disinfectant spray and wipes available from the PA of each sub school.

Additional On Campus Signage

- Social Distancing signage/stickers/Markers on floor in high traffic queuing areas, and outdoor seating – i.e. Shuk, school entrances, amphitheatre.

Assemblies, Events and Gatherings

- Year level and sub school assemblies are discouraged strongly inside. Outdoor preferred.

- Parents, carers and eligible visitors 12 and above, attending indoor assemblies, school events and gatherings must be fully vaccinated.

Bus Travel

- Additional cleaning and disinfecting will continue by Bialik's Driver bus company and students are encouraged to use this service – casual passes can be obtained by calling Reception or via email reception@bialik.vic.edu.au.
- Students are encouraged to observe social distancing, wear a mask and are encouraged to sit in family and/or year level groups.

Children who choose to stay at home and do not attend campus

While families are free to make their own decisions as to whether their children will return to campus, Bialik cannot provide the Digital Bialik provision while also providing on-campus learning, and it will be necessary for teachers to focus on the children in the classroom, rather than any who remain at home.

Children who are required to stay at home due to temporary medical requirements (e.g. being household of a case, being a case of Covid-19 themselves, or suffering from cold/flu symptoms) may access Hybrid Learning in line with the 2021 Hybrid Learning policy.

Hybrid Learning is not available for children who are absent from school for any other reason.

Cooling, Heating and Ventilation

- Windows are opened each day for fresh air.
- Ventilation systems have been adjusted to increase the percentage of outdoor air (even at the expense of cooling efficiency) and filters are replaced more regularly than normal, **operating continuously for two additional hours before and after school.**
- Offices and rooms with no windows to the outside or windows that cannot open are provided with an air purifier. Large busy areas have at least one air purifier installed and operational.

Duties

- Bus duty encourages proper distancing on buses when buses are operating. Yard duties encourages proper distancing of year levels.
- Duty staff will wear their own vests provided by the College.

Elevators

- Elevators are restricted to one adult per journey, where practicable.

Emergency Drills

- Drills to continue with social distancing considerations.

Emergency Management Procedures (Real Evacuation or Lockdown)

- In a real lockdown, the potential danger may be immediate and real. Unless instructed over the PA to do something different, please ignore social distancing during a lockdown and follow usual lockdown procedure (these can be found on the poster in each room).
- In a real evacuation, staff are responsible for their assigned students for the duration of the evacuation. Staff to report to a warden (Red Hat) or communications officer (White Hat) if they are missing a student. Implement social distancing where possible.

Equipment Usage

- Students and staff should sanitise or wash their hands at the beginning and end of each lesson that involves the use of shared equipment. E.g. Sport & PE, Science, Art, Library and Drama.

- Students from Years 2 upwards are encouraged to bring their own pencil cases with the required equipment in order to minimise sharing of items.

Family Sickness

- As per our policy, students, parents and all community members should not attend campus if they have any cold or flu-like symptoms and must stay away from campus until both a negative COVID-19 test has been undertaken and symptoms have subsided.
- Siblings of students who have cold or flu symptoms may attend campus whilst they have no symptoms of their own.
- If a household member tests positive to COVID-19, all members of the household must self-isolate may only return to campus post a 7 day isolation and a negative test for COVID-19 has been attained.

Group Food Experiences (Mask and Glove must be worn by servers)

- There will only be in class provision where food is handed out by staff wearing gloves & mask (e.g. Birthday Cakes & Challah). Students must wash or sanitise their hands prior to food distribution.
- Creche and Kinder challah baking is permitted.
- Staff are not permitted to bring unpackaged food from home to share with other staff or students.
- When distributing food for a large group (ie camp), plate preparation must be on a separate serving bench, at least 2 metres away from the recipient. Fruit must be whole and handed out.
- Hands must be washed prior to and after service, and gloves changed regularly.

Lesson changeovers – Corridors to be divided with directional markings and students encouraged to use appropriate stairwells

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|-------------|---|--|
| 1. Prep | – | stairs closest to Prep classrooms and exit via main entry/exit doors |
| 2. Year 1 | – | stairs closest to Year 1 classrooms to undercroft |
| 3. Year 2 | – | door facing ELC |
| 4. Year 3 | – | door to Primary playground |
| 5. Year 4 | – | bridge and entry by Karen's office (Head of Primary) |
| 6. Year 5 | – | door to Library |
| 7. Year 6 | – | stairs and door facing ELC |
| 8. Year 7 | – | middle stairs and door facing tennis courts |
| 9. Year 8 | – | blue internal stairs |
| 10. Year 9 | – | through Library |
| 11. Year 10 | – | Arts & Tech entry/exit |
| 12. Year 11 | – | stairs and door exiting to Kikkar Bialik |
| 13. Year 12 | – | via locker area |

Lunch Eating

- ALL students to wash/sanitise hands prior to eating.

Management of a suspected case of COVID-19

- Person isolated in appointed rooms (ELC Meeting Room and Board Room) which are equipped with the suspected case equipment box and PPE guidance.
- Further actions to be decided by rostered Covid-commander or delegate in consultation with regulatory bodies.

Off-site Activities – Excursions, Camps, Meetings, Professional Learning

- All off-site activities permitted.

- Attendance on camp is contingent on a College-provided Rapid Antigen Test with a negative result (alternatively families may obtain a negative test from a PCR test taken at a state testing hub within 36 hours of camp attendance).

Overseas Travellers (further guidance is to be found [here](#))

- Adults and vaccinated children aged 12 and over must not enter Creche, Kinder or School for the duration of the mandated quarantine period - i.e. until you have received a negative RAT or PCR test result, taken within 24 hours of arrival in Australia. Prior to attending campus, please send the test result, together with your return-to-campus date, to covid@bialik.vic.edu.au.
- Unvaccinated people (including those who have received only the first Covid-19 vaccination) must not enter school for 7 full days or early childhood for 14 days after arriving in Australia. A negative RAT/PCR test must be obtained within 24 hours of arrival in Australia and again on day 7 (school attendees) / day 14 (early childhood attendees) after arrival. Prior to attending campus, please send the test result, together with your return-to-campus date, to covid@bialik.vic.edu.au.

Parent-Teacher and 3-Way Interviews

- Online and offline opportunities will be offered.
- Any on-campus interviews are subject to attendees being fully vaccinated.

Parent Security Group

- Parent Security Group must wipe radios and cupboard handle and lock down at the end of each shift with an alcohol swab (provided in cupboard).

Public and School Transport

- Staff and students in Year 3 and above must wear a mask at all times.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

Attendance on campus and another relevant activities will be contingent on a negative RAT test.

- The College will request parental permission for RAT use in-school for children aged 2 and over (for children the College will use saliva-only tests, which involves sucking on sterile lolly-like strip under adult supervision, rather than more invasive nasal tests).
- Students exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be required to RAT-test with a negative result, and at the parents' expense, prior to attending/returning to kinder/creche.
- Symptomatic students exposed to a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be required to RAT-test prior to return to school.
- Whilst staff are encouraged to obtain their own RAT tests, staff may obtain a weekly RAT provided by the College once the government provided RATs have been exhausted. In the instance of staff being education/household contacts and unable to obtain RATs, they will be gifted a pack by the College for alternate working day testing in order to enable on-site attendance.

Shuk

- Recess – entry to Shuk is via door closest to First Aid room. Staff on duty to control flow with students. Exit of Shuk is via the door closest to the piazza.
- Card transactions are strongly encouraged.
- Signage on both doors, Social Distancing signage and markings on floor inside and line-ups outside.

Sport & PE Lessons

- Hand hygiene must be practised before and after use of any sporting equipment.
- Outdoor facilities are preferred for physical education and recreational play.
- Sport lessons which normally use Anderson Park, hockey and other local public areas (e.g. for Cross Country) may continue to do so.

Sports Centre Use

- The sports centre is fully operational, subject to staggered use of the changing rooms, density limits in all spaces, and the COVID-Safe plans provided and enforced by tenants.
- COVID Marshalls must ensure compliance with a particular focus on hygiene and QR Code check in for contract tracing.
- All attendees 16 years and older must be fully vaccinated with tenants being responsible for ensuring this rule.

Staff at Risk

- Staff can refer to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Staff briefings, Meetings and Professional Learning

- Staff briefings, meetings and PL permitted in ELC Piazza, Hall, Mifgash or MS Teams.

Staff Offices & Staff Rooms

- All offices and shared spaces have a card stating the **recommended** maximum number of adults permitted at the entry door.
- Shared staff desks (hot desks) must be wiped down after each use.
- Staff should ensure social distancing while in staff rooms at all times.
- **Masks must be worn at all times indoors unless alone in an office.**
- **Where possible, staff should rest, eat and meet in outdoor areas only.**

Therapists

- Aides and therapists must be fully vaccinated are required to follow the guidelines applicable to mask wearing, unless an exemption applies. This might include the need for clear enunciation or visibility of their mouth (for example, when undertaking a speech therapy intervention or working with individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing).

Toilets

- All toilets on campus to have a mid-day clean.
- Wash your Hands signage is in all toilets.

Vaccines

- Students - eligible students aged 5+ are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.
- **For Staff, Contractors and Volunteers, 'Fully Vaccinated' means 1st and 2nd vaccination by end of Term 4 2021 **and** 3rd vaccination (booster):**
 - **by 25 February 2022 for workers who became fully vaccinated on or before 25 October 2021;**
 - **by 15 March 2022 for workers who became fully vaccinated after 25 October 2021.**
- **Staff - all staff and volunteers must be 'fully vaccinated'.**
- Contractors including any staff member of a provider in the Sports Centre and other areas of the College, together with allied health personnel working onsite in close proximity to children, students or staff **must be fully vaccinated**. Allied Health personnel must show **proof of being fully vaccinated** to the Student Services Administrator (sagner@bialik.vic.edu.au), who will maintain records, whilst other contractors must do so via LoopLearn on entry.
- Volunteers including for PSG, Kitchen Garden, BCPA and Shuk, must be fully vaccinated. Volunteers must show proof of vaccination to the BCPA Administrator (via bcpaAdmin@bialik.vic.edu.au), who will maintain records.

Example of occasions requiring campus visitors to show that they are fully vaccinated	Examples of occasions where campus visitors are encouraged to be fully vaccinated
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face parent teacher interviews Information evenings/mornings • Performances events • Graduations • Volunteering • Festivals • Grandparent events • Indoor sporting carnivals • Meetings • School tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop off and collections • Emergencies
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Volunteers, Visitors, Presenters and Contractors Access

- Volunteers, visitors, presenters and contractors must meet the access, vaccine and health requirements outlined above, and must follow the guidelines applicable to mask wearing, and QR Code check-in when attending indoor facilities.
- Record keeping obligations must be adhered to by any essential visitor attending the school through QR Code or Looplearn registry.

Water Bottle Fillers and Drink Taps

- Water Bottle Fillers and drink taps are to remain functioning.