



# Tanglin Gippsland COVID Policy

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Prepared By	Approved By	Reviewed & Revised	Reviewed By	Next Review
Head of Campus	Tanglin Australia Board – September 2024			September 2026

## 1 Overview

- 1.1 Tanglin Gippsland has a responsibility and desire to provide for the care, safety, and welfare of all members of its community within the reasonable limits of its capacity to do so.
- 1.2 Notwithstanding its responsibility to all members of the community, Tanglin has a specific duty of care for the health and safety of its student boarders whereby the risk of harm is minimised, and they are able to function within a physically and emotionally secure, supportive, and productive environment.
- 1.3 Tanglin is conscious of its obligations towards the members of its own community as well as the broader community it operates within, in relation to Covid.
- 1.4 Tanglin will ensure policies and procedures will be developed and followed to enable it to comply with pandemic orders given by the Minister for Health under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

## 2 Details

- 2.1 COVIDSafe measures for schools
  - 2.1.1 COVIDSafe measures have changed but Tanglin will implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. When required, this will include:
    - ensuring air purifiers are in use
    - external ventilation is maximised
    - good personal hygiene is encouraged
    - allowing face masks to be worn by staff, students and visitors who wish to wear them.
- 2.2 COVIDSafe Plan
  - 2.2.1 The revised Safety Management Plan for COVID-19 (COVIDSafe Plan) outlines the key health and safety risks, and links to the latest guidance. The Head of Campus should ensure that staff are aware of Tanglin’s COVIDSafe plan.
- 2.3 Safety information and training
  - 2.3.1 Staff will complete any and all mandatory training programs or modules stipulated by the Minister of Health or Department of Education and Training.
- 2.4 Vaccinations
  - 2.4.1 Vaccination is no longer mandatory for staff or visitors in any Victorian school, including specialist and boarding schools.
  - 2.4.2 Staff and students are strongly recommended to ensure they keep up-to-date with all recommended and available COVID vaccinations as vaccinations are the best way to protect individuals, families and school communities from the severe effects of COVID and reduce the spread of the virus.

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## 2.5 Rapid antigen testing

2.5.1 It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students and staff:

- If you have symptoms of COVID infection, no matter how mild
- If you are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID
- If you are a social contact of someone who has COVID.

2.5.2 The Department of Health recommends that all Victorians should report their positive RAT result to the Department of Health by calling 1800 675 398.

2.5.3 Staff are recommended to report a positive COVID test result to the campus Nurse or Head of Campus on the day they receive a positive test result.

2.5.4 Students shall be encouraged to report all COVID signs and symptoms to the campus Nurse as soon as they feel unwell so they can take a RAT.

## 2.6 Face masks

2.6.1 Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

2.6.2 The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID when leaving home.

2.6.3 Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID for at least 7 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

## 2.7 Infection prevention and control

2.7.1 All staff, students and visitors to Tanglin should practise good hand hygiene, particularly before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. Staff should direct or supervise students where required.

## 2.8 Management of suspected cases of COVID

2.8.1 The staff member, student or visitor who is symptomatic should attend the Health Centre to undergo testing for COVID.

2.8.2 Students who test positive for COVID shall attend the Health Centre and be placed under the care of the Nurse who will decide the proper management and treatment.

2.8.3 If a student test positive for COVID, all other students who share their dormitory room will be tested.

## 2.9 Students who may be medically at-risk

2.9.1 Tanglin will ensure students with complex medical needs have up-to-date records and accompanying condition-specific health management plans (such as an Asthma Action Plan), based on individualised medical advice from the student's medical or health practitioner, and in consultation with the student and parents.

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### 3 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 Staff should report the result of a positive test and request sick leave. Staff who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and avoid communal areas on the campus during that period.
- 3.2 There is no longer a requirement for the Head of Campus to inform the campus community of a positive case associated with the campus.
- 3.3 Tanglin must treat health information, including positive COVID test results, in accordance with the Privacy Policy. COVID-19 diagnoses are not to be shared or discussed unless the individual (or their parent/carer) provides consent, or unless Tanglin is legally obliged or authorised to do so.
- 3.4 Further guidance on the handling of health care information can be found on PAL under Privacy and information sharing – Health care information.

### 4 Related Tanglin Gippsland Policies

- Student Health Policy
- First Aid Policy

### 5 Policy Review

- 5.1 This policy is approved by the Board of Tanglin Australia and will be reviewed at least every two years by Tanglin’s Leadership Team. *Leadership Team consists* of the Tanglin Gippsland Head of Campus, Head of Learning and Head of Pastoral Care.
- 5.2 Any significant changes to this policy must be approved by the Board.

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