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Every cusped arithmetic hyperbolic 3-manifold is commensurable to the quotient of  $\mathbb{H}^3$  by a Bianchi group. The Bianchi groups are the Kleinian groups  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_d)$  where  $\mathcal{O}_d$  is the ring of integers in an imaginary quadratic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$ . Recently there has been interest in determining the index of special subgroups of virtually special Kleinian groups. For the Bianchi groups  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathcal{O}_d)$ , we determine a special congruence subgroup, compute its index, and give an upper bound independent of  $d$  for the smallest index of a special subgroup. (Received March 14, 2017)