



Tuesday 10 March 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

**COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #7 as at 5.00pm on 10 March 2020**

We continue to closely monitor the development of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and remain vigilant to potential risk to our community. As such, we are preparing for a range of scenarios, including the possible closure of one or more of our campuses.

At present, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community; however, this is a rapidly evolving situation and we continue to take a highly precautionary approach based on the latest and best medical advice from the Australian Government Department of Health, the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, the School's risk management partner, SOS International, and our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron.

The safety, health and welfare of our students, staff and their families remains our priority. As such, we encourage all families to:

- consider the impact of possible school closures on your family, including the logistics of collecting children from campus;
- make plans well in advance (in consultation with guardians or homestay providers as required) for the accommodation of students in the event of possible school closures;
- complete our [online Travel Register](#) if your family travelled overseas during the recent Exeat and/or are planning to travel overseas at the conclusion of Term 1;
- inform the School immediately if a student or family members have travelled on a flight with a passenger who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- inform the School immediately if a student or family members have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, noting that 15 minutes of face-to-face contact or two hours in the same room with an infected person is deemed to be 'high risk';
- be specific with the provision of absentee information and update the School if your child's health changes whilst absent from campus to include COVID-19 symptoms; and
- complete the [Health Provider Report](#) specific to COVID-19 following a period of isolation from the School.

COVID-19 is a global health issue and many countries are now reporting cases. The Australian Government has travel restrictions in place for mainland China and Iran (Level 4), has raised the travel advice for South Korea (Level 3), as well as Italy, Japan and Mongolia (Level 2). The School's Travel Register information will assist our preparations to keep our community safe and well.

As part of our proactive and precautionary approach to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have suspended all overseas school trips until further notice. We have also established a taskforce to map the roll-out of online learning platforms.

Our ongoing preventative management of the COVID-19 outbreak includes:

- continuing to highlight the importance of hygiene to prevent the spread of germs and viral illnesses through informative posters and practical strategies, such as increasing the supply of hand sanitiser in our dining halls and emphasising the necessity of washing hands properly;
- closely monitoring student health across all our campuses with a heightened awareness around COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue and shortness of breath;
- strongly encouraging the flu vaccination for all students and staff at the School when the new influenza vaccination for Australia becomes available (likely late March / early April). We are currently exploring expanding the provision of flu vaccinations at our Corio Campus and will provide an update in due course.

Whilst flu vaccinations will not prevent COVID-19 from developing, this proactive practice assists our community to lessen the burden of respiratory infections and medical services generally. We strongly recommend families to consider this step in 2020, and especially those who have a history with respiratory complications.

Should you require further information about COVID-19, regular updates may be found at:

[Australian Government – Department of Health](#)

[Victorian Government – Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#)

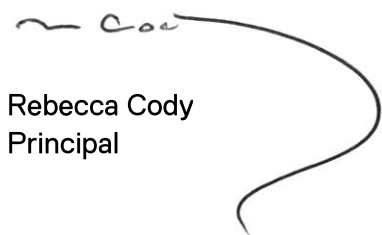
[Victorian Government – Department of Education](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

We encourage you to view these sites; GGS updates will continue to be via our website as required. We also encourage you to maintain a sense of calm and perspective. Please be reassured that the School will communicate with you swiftly and accurately as the situation evolves: sharing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information creates unhelpful distractions.

Translations of our advice will continue to be provided; Update #7 is currently being translated into Mandarin and Cantonese.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rebecca Cody  
Principal

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**Principal's Study**

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