



Thursday 12 March 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #8 as at 5.00pm on 12 March 2020

In light of the World Health Organisation (WHO) declaring COVID-19 as a global pandemic on 11 March 2020, we continue to adjust our response proportionately, whilst maintaining the School's highly precautionary approach. At present, we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our community.

Today, we have been informed that the Victorian Government modelling makes an emphatic case for now undertaking detailed business continuity planning. As such, we have established two taskforces to map the roll-out of online learning platforms and to address contingency planning more generally.

In anticipation of stricter guidelines following the WHO's declaration of a global pandemic, the School will now implement social distancing measures to prioritise the safety, health and welfare of our students, staff and their families. Accordingly, the decision has been made that the School will only proceed with onsite events which are essential to the function of the School. Specifically, the School has now made decisions with regard to the following events which are planned within the next five (5) days:

FoMS Middle School Welcome Drinks – Thursday 12 March 2020

The Friends of Middle School Welcome Drinks scheduled for this evening will no longer proceed. We value the significant efforts of the FoMS Committee in the planning of this event and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Rowing Regattas – Friday 13 March 2020 - Sunday 15 March 2020

The Rowing Regattas scheduled for tomorrow and for this coming weekend are expected to proceed. In line with our consistently highly precautionary approach and in order to manage risk, the School requires:

1. Only essential staff, competitors and their parents attend the Regatta;
2. The rowing sheds and the immediate areas surrounding the rowing sheds are out of bounds to all people except for essential staff and competitors;
3. Those who have chronic medical conditions or compromised immune systems should not attend; and
4. Parents and competitors are encouraged to avoid unnecessary close gatherings whilst attending the Regatta.

The APS School Heads will gather tomorrow morning and the position regarding APS Sport generally will be reviewed at that time.

Discovery Day – Tuesday 17 March 2020

The Term 1 Discovery Days for both Corio and Bostock House will no longer proceed. Again, we apologise for any inconvenience caused and encourage attendees to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for future arrangements.

WHO Hygiene Guidelines

The School continues to fully endorse the guidelines around non-contact greetings and reiterates the importance of the [WHO hygiene guidelines](#) ensuring regular handwashing, the appropriate etiquette for coughing and sneezing and the use of hand sanitiser.

Please note that given the escalation of COVID-19 to global pandemic status, any communiques or decisions are subject to change without notice.

We encourage families to continue to consider the impact of possible closures of one or more of our campuses, including the logistics of collecting children from campus and making plans well in advance as to their accommodation in the event of possible school closures.

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](#)

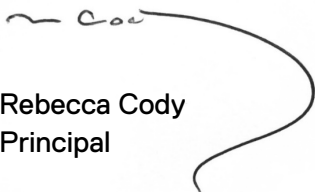
[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

We encourage you to view these sites; a further GGS update will be provided by 4pm tomorrow, Friday 13 March, and include our approach to offsite events between now and the close of Term 1. We also encourage you to maintain a sense of calm and perspective. Please be reassured that the School will continue to 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 #8 is currently being translated into Mandarin and Cantonese.

We appreciate your understanding as we navigate complex times.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

50 Biddlecombe Avenue, Corio, Victoria, Australia 3214
T +61 3 5273 9247 E Principal@ggs.vic.edu.au

BOSTOCK HOUSE | CORIO | TIMBERTOP® | TOORAK

CRICOS 00143G ABN 92 004 971 500 www.ggs.vic.edu.au