



Friday 13 March 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #9 as at 5.00pm on 13 March 2020

In light of Australian Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy's recommendation today regarding organised non-essential gatherings, the growing evidence of community transmission and the World Health Organisation's (WHO) recent declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, we continue to adjust our response proportionately, whilst advancing the School's highly precautionary approach.

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 proactive 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.

APS Sport

The APS School Heads gathered this morning and decided that, with the exception of First Team Sport, all other levels of regular APS Sporting competitions (including Year 5 and 6 fixtures) will not proceed for the remainder of Term 1. The decision was made to continue with First Team Sport this weekend as many fixtures are in progress.

Rowing Regattas

The Head of Schoolgirls' Regatta Committee met this afternoon and decided to cancel the weekend rowing programme at the conclusion of today's racing. We are awaiting confirmation from Rowing Victoria regarding the status of the Scotch Mercantile Regatta at Nagambie.

Continuity Planning

Since Update #8, we have continued our detailed business continuity planning and scenario mapping, including a potential early conclusion to Term 1, as well as a delayed commencement of Term 2. Details of these considerations will be provided by 4pm tomorrow, Saturday 14 March. Our two taskforces have progressed the roll-out of online learning platforms and contingency planning more generally. We will continue to implement social distancing measures, with a particular emphasis on limiting the size of gatherings in our dining halls, chapels and assemblies.

Student Leave

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. We respect each family's individual right to make decisions in regard to the wellbeing of their child, especially those with international travel considerations. Usual leave protocols apply for the early departure and/or temporary absence of students.

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.

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 \(WHO\)](#)

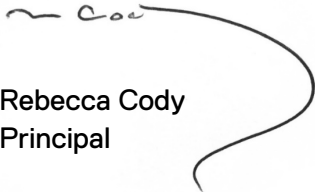
We encourage you to view these sites; a further GGS update will be provided by 4pm tomorrow, Saturday 14 March. We also encourage you to maintain a sense of calm and perspective. Please be reassured that the School will continue to communicate with you swiftly and accurately as the situation evolves: sharing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information creates unhelpful distractions.

Translations of our advice will continue to be provided; Update #9 is currently being translated into Mandarin and Cantonese.

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

We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding.

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

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