



Thursday 15 July 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #30 as at 5.40pm on Thursday 15 July

We are moving swiftly to finalise details in response to Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' announcement this afternoon of a [“circuit breaker” stage-four lockdown](#) across the State from 11.59pm tonight until 11.59pm on Tuesday 20 July (5 days). Whilst this disruption is disappointing, I am incredibly confident of our community's capacity to once again pivot and adapt to the evolving situation. We are very well-equipped to care for the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, and to continue their learning with minimal interruption.

What we can confirm:

- All schools are closed for face-to-face teaching, so all day students will go home this afternoon as previously scheduled and stay home until further notice;
- Corio and Timbertop campuses will remain open as an “authorised provider” as a boarding school, allowing boarding students to remain on site for the provision of essential care services. Boarding students who choose to go home from the Corio campus will not be able to return to campus until the lockdown has been lifted. We strongly urge families to allow students to remain at Corio given the School is well equipped to care for our students, and this will allow them to continue their learning with minimal disruption and alleviate the impact of any cross-border travel requirements;
- Early Learning Centres at Bostock House and Toorak Campus will remain open;
- Bostock House, Corio and Toorak Campus will be open for on-site supervision of vulnerable children and the children of essential/authorised/permitted workers (please complete the [Registration Form](#) as per below);
- Age appropriate Remote Learning will commence for all students from Period 1, tomorrow, Friday 16 July. Parents will find information on the [Hive](#) regarding the asynchronous and synchronous learning programme for our students;
- Face coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors except if at home (which includes boarding houses and units);
- Indoor physical recreation and sport facilities such as the Handbury Centre for Wellbeing will be closed;
- Outdoor physical recreation and sport facilities and playgrounds will remain open; and
- APS/AGSV sport is cancelled for Saturday 17 July.

Public exposure sites

The Department of Health (DoH) is actively identifying and updating its list of [public exposure sites](#). We strongly encourage our community to monitor risk locations. It is vital that our community follows the DoH guidelines for testing and isolation: if you have visited a public exposure site during the times listed and/or if you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, please test and isolate until further direction is provided. It is also vital that if you or a close contact have visited a public exposure site and visited one of our campuses that you notify the School via C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au.

Early Learning @ GGS

Staff, parents, carers and children are permitted to leave their homes and travel beyond 5 km to attend our ELC services at Bostock House and Toorak Campus. No permit is required.

On-site Supervision

To assist parents who are considered authorised workers and “vulnerable children”, we will be providing on-site supervision at Bostock House, Corio and Toorak Campus from tomorrow, Friday 16 July from 8.15am until 4.00pm. To register for On-site Supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 8.00pm tonight, Thursday 15 July.

Travelling from New South Wales and ACT

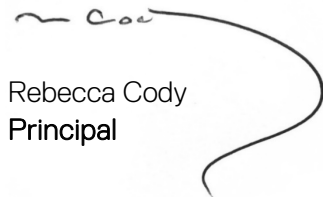
We continue to advocate with the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Education to support exemptions for accompanying adults to travel and quarantine with students in Victoria when travelling from a designated Red Zone. As noted in [Update #26](#), the DoH has advised that boarding students can seek a Red Zone Permit as a returning Victorian resident by indicating that the School is their home address. If you have not already done so, please refer to [Update #26](#) on how to apply for a Red Zone Permit. Essentially, this afternoon’s announcement does not change the status of our efforts.

Next steps

As ever, the School will communicate swiftly and accurately with our community as the situation evolves and more information is provided by the Victorian Government. The [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website will be refreshed as required; we encourage you to check this site and thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au.

We are becoming very experienced with all associated aspects of circuit-breaker lockdowns and as such, the School’s capacity to transition effectively continues to strengthen. This is a result of your ongoing support and cooperation, as well as the expertise and care of our phenomenal operations team and our remarkable teachers. Our students’ inspiring resilience and optimism uplift us all.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

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