



Monday 22 June 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #34 as at 7.00pm on Monday 22 June

We acknowledge the Victorian Government's decision to extend the State of Emergency in Victoria for another four weeks to continue its measures designed to slow the spread of COVID-19. The State of Emergency has been extended until Sunday 19 July 2020, which is the end of the first week of Term 3. Whilst we will continue to actively monitor State and Federal Government guidelines and advice, we anticipate that our risk mitigation practices for the commencement of Term 3 will continue as per the final two weeks of Term 2. In the meantime, we encourage our community to comply with [Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines](#) during the school holiday period.

Our Timbertop students will complete their 14 days of 'internal group isolation' tomorrow. This will see the conclusion of the 14-TEST-14 plan which has been successfully implemented at the campus. The students and staff are to be complimented on their commitment to the ethos of the response required in order to now safely resume integrated learning and living at Timbertop. In the event of a Timbertop student becoming considerably unwell with the likelihood of being unwell for some time, parents or guardians will be required to assist in their immediate collection from campus. We have adopted the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) [advice](#) that unwell students are not required to provide a 'medical clearance' or certificate from a General Practitioner stating they do not have the COVID-19 virus to return to campus. Students will be able to return to campus when their symptoms have resolved and they have a negative COVID-19 test result; and in the usual course, must attend the Timbertop Health Centre upon their return. In order to mitigate the risk of infection, it is vital that the collection process be facilitated in a cooperative and prompt manner. For interstate, overseas and regional families, it is essential that Victorian guardians have the immediate capacity to travel to collect students and to accommodate them until they are cleared to return to campus. Please review guardian arrangements if this cannot be facilitated as required.

We acknowledge the [updated statement](#) from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) about risk management for boarding schools and school-based residential colleges. We continue to take a proactive and highly precautionary approach to Boarding @ GGS, particularly given our unique, predominantly residential context as Australia's largest coeducational boarding school, with a student composition representing every state and territory, as well as 16 overseas countries. This includes facility-specific risk assessments that inform the development of our risk management plans, including our planned response to scenarios such as the diagnosis of a single or multiple cases of COVID-19.

Please be reassured that the School will communicate with you swiftly and accurately as the situation evolves. As such, the [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website will continue to be refreshed regularly during the school holidays; we encourage you to check this site frequently and monitor email alerts from Heads of Campus. Update #35 will also be published no later than Wednesday 8 July.

Similarly, a reminder to please direct all related queries to: C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

