



Friday 3 July 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

### COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #35 as at 4.00pm on Friday 3 July

Victoria's situation with COVID-19 remains dynamic, and we continue to align with [Victorian Government COVID-19 guidelines](#). Our decision-making remains committed to both prevention and containment.

#### Timbertop dates

As a proactive and precautionary measure for planning purposes, the previously published Timbertop exeat for Term 3 has been cancelled. The Term now concludes on 8 September. Head of Campus, Tom Hall, will outline fully the benefits of this arrangement in his communication with families later today. Essentially, we have made this decision in the best interests of student and staff safety, and trust that you will appreciate that the benefits outweigh any inconvenience caused. As ever, I am in awe of our highly adaptable Timbertop team, many of whom are foregoing family commitments to enable this pre-emptive change.

#### Corio

The following preventative strategies will remain paramount baseline requirements for the commencement of Term 3 at Corio:

- spatial distancing;
- excellent hygiene practices;
- daily temperature checking;
- the completion of the Daily Health Questionnaire;
- masks to be worn during all classes (to be reviewed once Victoria's Chief Health Officer reassesses the State of Emergency status, which was extended until Sunday 19 July)\*; and
- directed testing if symptoms are present.

\*The use of masks at Corio reflects the identification of boarding schools as “a high-risk setting” and is supported by [a study published by The Lancet medical journal](#) that determined “face mask use could result in a large reduction in risk of infection”. Other risk mitigation measures have negated the need for masks at Timbertop; furthermore, compared with Corio, it is a far less porous site.

In addition, we require:

- masks to be worn on airplanes, trains and buses (congested public spaces);
- staff and students residing in current [Victorian Government determined “hot spots”](#) to present negative test result before returning to residential learning environment;
- students who reside within a two-hour radius of Corio are required to leave campus upon the presentation of any relevant symptoms, whilst for students who present with symptoms and live beyond the 2-hour radius we will make attempts to isolate on site, if possible; and
- Individual Action Plans (IAP) to be completed for all boarders.

The latter requirement is in response to the [updated statement](#) from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) about risk management for boarding schools and school-based residential colleges. The IAPs need to be completed by Friday 10 July at noon. Heads of Campus, Steven Church and Tom Hall, will provide a link on Monday 6 July.

Following further discussions with our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron, the matters of internal isolation periods, exeats and leave for boarders at Corio will be addressed no later than Wednesday 8 July in Update #36.

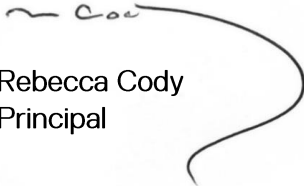
### **Bostock House and Toorak Campus**

At this stage, there are no planned changes to the procedures operating at Bostock House and Toorak Campus; it will continue as per arrangements for the final weeks of Term 2.

As ever, 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; we encourage you to check this site frequently and monitor email alerts from Heads of Campus.

Stay well and thank you for your understanding and support as we endeavour to keep our community safe and avoid periodic shutdowns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cody', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**Rebecca Cody**  
**Principal**