



Saturday 1 August 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #45 as at 8.00pm on Saturday 1 August

We continue to closely monitor the daily updates on the “incredibly stubborn” outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria and note the Victorian Premier’s warning that the [Stage 3 Restrictions](#) for metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire are likely to be extended beyond the initial six-week lockdown.

Toorak Campus – COVID-19 testing

The School has arranged COVID-19 testing for all students and staff who were on campus last week (Monday-Tuesday) as a highly precautionary response to the positive diagnosis of an employee now experiencing mild symptoms at our Toorak Campus. Although students have not been identified as close contacts of the employee, we will be providing COVID-19 testing on Tuesday 4 August and our Toorak Campus will remain closed until further notice.

Face Masks

We welcome the Victorian Government announcement that face coverings will be mandatory for all of Victoria from 11.59pm on Sunday 2 August to help slow the spread of COVID-19:

- All students and staff must follow the [Victorian Government guidelines](#) at all times on all our campuses;
- Whilst children who are under the age of 12 years old are not required by law to wear a face mask, we strongly encourage primary students from Year 1 and above to wear a face mask “when they leave home”;
- All students should wear face masks when utilising public transport and on the bus services we provide – whilst this is not a legal requirement for children under the age of 12, it is strongly encouraged by the School;
- Day students at Corio will be required to wear masks in their Houses;
- Boarding Houses at Corio and Units at Timbertop are treated as a home/family unit and therefore, masks are not required; however, all boarding students will be required to wear masks when outside Houses and Units; and
- Masks are also not required when participating in [“exercise or physical activity”](#), but students must wear masks when walking to and from sport/training.

From Monday 3 August, staff and students will be able to use three-layer cloth masks as [recommended by Victoria’s Chief Health Officer \(CHO\)](#). We are very grateful to have received an extremely generous donation of a large supply of cloth masks from one of our families, which will be distributed across our four campuses from Monday 10 August. In the interim, the School will continue to provide N95 face masks for all staff and students as required.

Boarding students will require 10 cloth masks and 2 additional mesh laundry bags to enable robust laundry protocols; laundry bags will be collected from Houses and Units twice weekly for cleaning by our commercial laundry partners.

We recommend the same number of cloth masks for Day and Day Boarding students to enable suitable time for cleaning; one clean cloth mask per day will be effective.

In the near future, cloth masks will also be available for purchase from our GGS Uniform Shop.

Interstate Travel

Further to [Update #41](#) and following the closure of the South Australian border, the School continues to communicate with both the South Australian Police COVID-19 Border Control Taskforce and the South Australian Deputy Chief Public Health Officer with regard to seeking exemptions for students to be classified as “essential travellers”. We are also actively investigating travel arrangements for all interstate students and liaising with various Government authorities regarding travel exemptions. Our support for interstate families will not waiver; you have demonstrated resilience and commitment to remain with us despite the uncertainty of end of Term travel arrangements.

Corio Campus – negative test results

We are relieved to have received notification that the Middle School boarding students that presented with cold and flu-like symptoms as referenced in [Update #42](#) have all received negative COVID-19 test results. As ever, the School ensures all students who are unwell and/or with suspected COVID-19 symptoms receive appropriate immediate healthcare responses.

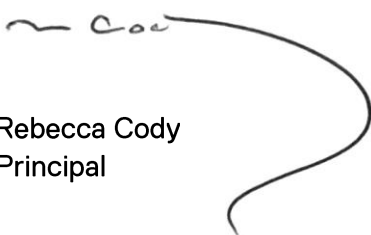
Catering – Corio Campus

The School has made several enhancements to food hygiene and food handling practices at Corio in response to COVID-19. These enhancements are reflected in the way food is served and has resulted in an increase in pre-packaged food, such as sushi, sandwiches and salads (in addition to a choice of two hot food options at lunch and dinner). Spatial distancing requirements have resulted in rotation of Houses in our dining halls (restricted to 2 Houses at any one time), additional staffing for food service, enhanced cleaning/sanitising procedures, and the provision of breakfast in-House (with cooked breakfast on weekends and at least 5 weekdays each fortnight). We have also adjusted meal times, with the introduction of morning recess and afternoon tea, which represents an overall increase in the food offering.

I’ve just enjoyed a terrific half day of sport at Corio. Blessed with magnificent weather, I was struck by the buoyancy and gratitude of our students. There was plenty of open discussion about these strange times and new ways of being; equally, there was thankfulness for all that we can enjoy as a living and learning community. As one young Manifold man said, “I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else right now!”

Stay well and thank you for your understanding and support.

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