



Thursday 2 September 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #47 as at 1.00pm on Thursday 2 September

Vaccinations

We welcome yesterday's announcement by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews that Senior School students sitting VCE and IB examinations will have priority access to Pfizer vaccinations from Tuesday 7 September until Friday 17 September. As part of this priority vaccination programme, Year 12 students and those Year 11 students studying Units 3 & 4 VCE subjects, as well as their teachers and examiners, will be given priority booking access at Victoria's state-run clinics, such as the [Barwon Health Vaccination Hub](#) at the old Ford factory. Students and teachers will be able to book one of these priority appointments from Monday 6 September. We are awaiting further advice from the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Education (DoE) on how students and families will be able to arrange a booking through the School. We shall correspond with families as soon as this information is available.

Corio Vaccine Hub

In the meantime, and as referenced in recent Updates, we have progressed our planning for on-site Pfizer vaccinations at Corio. Through the generous support of the RMIT Medical Hub, we have secured 200 doses of Pfizer vaccine, which will be utilised to establish an on-site hub. To minimise movement of those students in and out of the community, we will initially prioritise Year 12 students and those Year 11 students studying Units 3 & 4 VCE subjects currently residing as boarders on-site at Corio. Families within these priority groups will be contacted separately to begin completing the required consent processes.

If we have capacity beyond this group, we will open the bookings to interested Year 12 and Year 11 students studying Units 3 & 4 VCE subjects not currently in residence at Corio, followed by other Year 11 students who are currently in residence. Once we have confirmation of the day the vaccinations will take place, we will email families of students in the priority groups with a link to the booking page, vaccine information and parent consent form.

Timbertop Vaccine Hub

Given the full residential context, we are continuing to work with the Mansfield Vaccination Hub to secure a sufficient supply of Pfizer vaccines to establish an on-site vaccination hub at Timbertop. We will communicate further details as our planning progresses; importantly, we are working within Government guidelines for eligibility and supply.

If we are unable to provide on-site vaccinations to eligible students outside the priority groups at Corio and Timbertop before the end of Term 3, we encourage families wishing to have their child/children vaccinated during the September school holidays to explore opportunities with a local vaccination hub, doctor, pharmacy or community health service.

Off-site Vaccine Arrangements for Corio Boarders

We are aware that some families have been able to arrange vaccinations for their child/children. For families of boarding students at Corio wishing to have their child/children vaccinated, the School will continue to manage this process in a safe and orderly manner in coordination with Heads of House (to arrange a staff member to accompany vaccination appointments) and our Kennedy Health Centre (to monitor potential side effects). Reasonably and appropriately, given our staffing capacity and priorities, the School can only facilitate transport to the [Barwon Health Community Vaccination Hub](#) at the old Ford Factory in Norlane.

Our oversight of this programme is essential so that we can adequately attend to the varying needs of the students in our care. Please aim to make your bookings in the afternoons between noon and 3.00pm. Using this time window will allow us to facilitate transport and offer wellbeing support. Please notify your child's Head of House immediately, read the Australian Government's Information Sheet and complete the Australian Government's [COVID-19 Consent Form](#) if you secure a vaccination booking.

Please note: vaccinations are voluntary and only administered with consent (being parental consent, or student consent for 18-year-olds who are legally able to consent to medical treatment).

September School Holidays

As outlined in [Update #44](#), our Corio Campus will remain open across the September school holidays as an "authorised provider" (boarding school context) of residential services for Corio and Timbertop students. To help us plan, we remind families to please complete an [Expression of Interest](#) for your child to attend the School Holiday programme at the Corio Campus no later than 12.00pm (noon) on Friday 3 September.

In that same Update (#44) we also invited all Victorian-based GGS families to volunteer if they are able to provide accommodation for students across the School holiday period. Please complete the [Offer of Provision of Holiday Accommodation](#) form if you are able to assist.

General Assessment Test (GAT) Postponed

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) has confirmed that the General Assessment Test (GAT) will now be held on Tuesday 5 October from 10.00am-1.15pm. VCAA has advised that this will be subject to public health advice nearer to the date.

Please note: all students returning to site to complete essential assessments are required to have a COVID test 72 hours prior to attending on-site.

Corio Athletics Carnival

The ongoing Delta outbreak and extended lockdown in Victoria has resulted in the cancellation of the Corio House Athletics Carnival. This is disappointing as we had continued to progress plans for an event for Year 5-8 and Year 10-12 students at Corio. The delay to re-opening schools and the lack of certainty for the remainder of Term 3 means that our planning team can no longer make required arrangements with any confidence. Once again, we look forward to hosting a joyous whole school Athletics Carnival in 2022, whilst also empathising with the disappointment for many of our Year 12 leavers.

Next Steps

Thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au.

I marvel at our staff's capacity to continue to attend to every aspect of our students' learning whilst also supporting so many new demands that COVID represents. My gratitude to our teaching and operational teams is heartfelt.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal

