



Thursday 29 October 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #64 as at 11.00am on Thursday 29 October

We continue to closely monitor the daily updates on the outbreak of COVID-19 in Victoria and are relieved that Melbourne's 14-day rolling average for new cases is now 2.4 and that regional Victoria's rolling average has fallen to zero. There are currently 80 active cases in Victoria, all in metropolitan Melbourne.

Corio Campus: Review of Weekend Exeat/Leave Restrictions

With the announcement of easing of restrictions made by Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews on Monday, 26 October, we continue to adapt our approach and risk mitigation measures accordingly. Consequently, weekend exeat/leave restrictions have been reviewed at Corio and Head of Campus, Steven Church, will communicate with families today to confirm the arrangements for such leave. It is important that students and families make proper arrangements for this leave through REACH and observe the student pick up and drop off schedule as published.

At this time, given all current active cases are confined to metropolitan Melbourne, weekend exeat leave will be permitted to regional Victoria only, with the exception of those Year 12 students who will be leaving campus for their study and examination period. Year 12 students travelling to metropolitan Melbourne and returning to their boarding house must continue to comply with the requirements of the [Restricted Activity Directions \(Non-Melbourne\) No 10](#) and families will need to complete the [Metropolitan Melbourne Statement](#). This requires Year 12 boarding students returning from metropolitan Melbourne to undergo a COVID-19 test and be in receipt of a negative result prior to their return. Should Year 12 boarding students travelling from metropolitan Melbourne wish to attend examinations as a day student, such testing will not be required but access to their boarding house will not be available under any circumstances. This is a Victorian government directive which must be complied with by all metropolitan Melbourne students and is a proper safeguard given our high-risk boarding environment.

The opportunity for weekend exeat and leave is being made available to students on the basis of the School's assessment of the risk within the broader community but crucially, on the clear expectation that such leave will be taken by students and their families in a manner which is strictly in keeping with the published government Directions, including the [Stay Safe Directions \(Non-Melbourne\) \(No 6\)](#) and [Restricted Activity Directions \(Non-Melbourne\) No 10](#).

Required COVIDSafe Behaviours

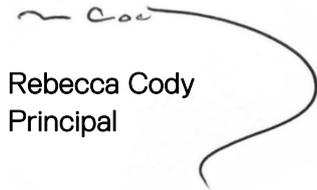
For those Corio students taking leave from campus, we implore families to prioritise COVIDSafe behaviours which protect the continued safe provision of on campus learning and living. This is particularly important given the potentially significant disruption to our community of a positive diagnosis.

We acknowledge the importance for this leave to provide the opportunity for reset and connection with family and friends off campus but this must be undertaken in accordance with the strict requirements for spatial distancing, excellent hygiene practices, including regular hand washing and sanitising, wearing of a mask, use of private transport (avoiding public transport and travel in taxis and Ubers) and the published limits on numbers of people for social gatherings, both in your home and in public. Specifically, for those regional Victorian families who have kindly offered to host other students to stay with them for the weekend leave, please be aware that the [Stay Safe Directions \(Non-Melbourne\) \(No 6\)](#) direct that no

more than two additional boarders may be hosted overnight at your home for the weekend. Please do not seek to accommodate additional students in contravention of this Direction. We must also reiterate that any student with any symptoms following an exeat should stay at home, be tested and not return until they have a negative test result and their symptoms have abated.

I absolutely acknowledge the fatigue that many families are feeling in relation to COVIDSafe practices. Our heightened awareness, vigilance and compliance remain a necessity though and will continue to serve our School well. Thank you for making choices that model individual responsibility and community mindedness.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cody', is written above a large, stylized, hand-drawn flourish that curves from the end of the signature down and to the left.

Rebecca Cody
Principal