



Thursday 5 March 2020

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Update #6 as at 2.00pm on 5 March 2020

We continue to closely monitor the development of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and remain alert but not alarmed about potential risk to our community.

As ever, the safety, health and welfare of our students, staff and their families is our priority and we continue to take a precautionary approach based on the latest and best medical advice from the Australian Government Department of Health, the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services, the School's risk management partner, SOS International, and our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron.

Our coordinated response has ensured that all students returning from enforced and voluntary self-isolation did so in a consistent and safe manner. As part of our ongoing preventative management of the COVID-19 outbreak, we are:

- continuing to highlight the importance of hygiene to prevent the spread of germs and viral illnesses through informative posters and practical strategies, such as increasing the supply of hand sanitiser in our dining halls and emphasising the necessity of washing hands properly;
- closely monitoring student health across all our campuses;
- strongly encouraging flu vaccination for all students and staff at the School when the new influenza vaccination for Australia becomes available in early-mid April. We are currently exploring expanding the provision of flu vaccinations at our Corio Campus and will provide an update in due course.

Whilst flu vaccinations will not prevent COVID-19 from developing, this proactive practice assists our community to lessen the burden of respiratory infections and medical services generally. We strongly recommend families to consider this step in 2020, and especially those who have a history with respiratory complications.

We have also commenced planning to ensure arrangements are in place to best support the safety and wellbeing of our students across the upcoming Exeat (6-9 March 2020 for Bostock, Corio and Toorak students and 7-9 March 2020 for Timbertop students) and the conclusion of Term 1 (27 March 2020). The Australian Government has extended existing travel restrictions on mainland China to include Iran and South Korea, and recently raised the level of travel advice for Italy, Japan and Mongolia.

We require all families that are planning to travel overseas during the upcoming Exeat or at the conclusion of Term 1 to complete our [online Travel Register](#).

COVID-19 is a global health issue and the situation is rapidly evolving. As such, the Travel Register information will assist our preparations to keep our community safe and well. Many of our international families have already advised our Overseas Student Officer, [Emily Scarlett](#), of their travel plans. Once again, I thank you for your ongoing assistance and support.

Please also note that our proactive and precautionary approach to the COVID-19 outbreak includes suspending planning of all overseas school trips until further notice. We are also establishing a focus group to explore the roll-out of online learning platforms.

Should you require further information about COVID-19, regular updates may be found at:

[Australian Government – Department of Health](#)

[Victorian Government – Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#)

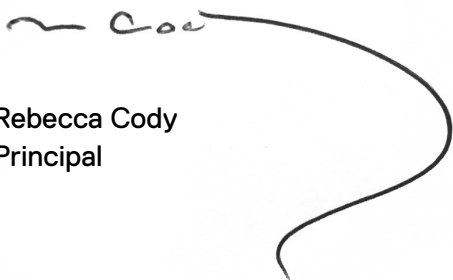
[Victorian Government – Department of Education](#)

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

We encourage you to view these sites; GGS updates will continue to be via our website as required.

Translations of our advice will continue to be provided; Update #6 is currently being translated into Mandarin and Cantonese.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Cody', with a long, sweeping underline that curves to the right.

Rebecca Cody
Principal

Principal's Study

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