



Thursday 8 July 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #25 as at 7.30pm on Thursday 8 July**

We continue to closely monitor the Delta COVID-19 variant outbreaks across Australia, and particularly in Greater Sydney. We understand that the situation for our interstate families continues to be complex. We are thinking of you all, especially those where extended stay-at-home restrictions have been imposed. Our support for interstate families will not waiver; your resilience and ongoing commitment to our GGS community is valued dearly, especially considering the uncertainty of travel arrangements throughout the pandemic.

#### **Return to Campus from Interstate**

We will continue to actively investigate travel arrangements for all interstate students and liaise with the various Government authorities to prioritise the safe and managed return of all of our students.

Unfortunately, at the time of writing, **we have not received approval from the Department of Health (DoH) to the School's proposed Phased Return to Boarding Quarantine Programme** as outlined in [Update 23](#). Therefore, at this time, students located in a designated **Red Zone** will need to seek a [Victorian COVID-19 Border Entry Permit](#) to return to Victoria and undertake the required 14-day quarantine at an alternative location with a parent/guardian or emergency contact. The guidance is to note the student's address in Victoria as the School address, but as above, the place for quarantine cannot be the School. This permit application will need to be supported by a letter from the School.

Please note, the Victorian DoH has indicated that for the purpose of seeking a Victorian Resident Red Zone Permit, returning students are not Victorian residents. Students should indicate that their usual residence is the State in which their family resides. Families who have not already done so and wish to proceed with this option, can notify the School via [c19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:c19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au) to request a letter of support. When doing so, please provide the address in Victoria where this self-quarantine for the required period will be undertaken. An application for a permit to enter Victoria may be made via [Victorian COVID-19 Border Entry](#).

The [summary of current interstate travel requirements](#) is provided by the School to assist with initial planning for return travel and seeks to provide a current source of information to facilitate travel to Victoria. **Please note that all travellers entering Victoria from anywhere in Australia or New Zealand must apply for a [Victoria Travel Permit](#).**

If you are travelling from an **Orange Zone**, you must agree to the requirement of self-quarantine, take a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival and remain in self-quarantine until you receive a negative test result. Given our high-risk setting and the DOH's requirements, the School cannot facilitate the self-isolation requirement on campus, and families will need to factor this requirement when planning their return to Victoria. Please note that the self-quarantine cannot be undertaken at an alpine resort. **A letter of support from the School is not required when applying for an Orange Zone Permit.**

#### **Bus Transport**

We will be providing bus transport from Albury-Wodonga to facilitate the managed return of students to both Corio and Timbertop. If you wish to return to campus by bus, you must comply with strict COVID-19 protocols and the requirements of your applicable Permit.

We are currently liaising with local authorities and Heads of Campus will provide specific information about logistics and requirements for bus transport by 11.00am tomorrow, Friday 9 July.

### Vaccinations

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 vaccination programme phases and priority groups. Given our unique residential context, we will advocate for the timely and appropriate access to vaccinations for our staff and students.

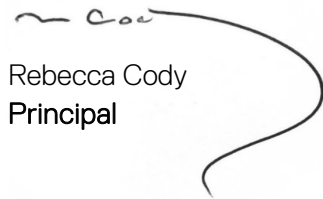
### Next steps

As ever, the School will communicate swiftly and accurately with our community as the situation evolves and specific information will be provided to our families in designated Orange and Red Zones.

The [COVID-19 page](#) of the School website will be refreshed as required; we encourage you to check this site and thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to [C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au).

Whilst this recent period of outbreaks has been frustrating and upsetting for many, the best way to minimise impact of the disease is to remain vigilant with our hygiene protocols, accept the opportunity to be vaccinated as this becomes available and rely on one another's decency in complying with State specific regulations.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody  
Principal

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#### Principal's Study

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