



Saturday 10 July 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #27 as at 8.30pm on Saturday 10 July

Re: Exemption Applications for Accompanying Adults travelling from a designated Red Zone into Victoria

With the assistance of our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron, we have now received a further update from the Department of Health (DoH). This update relates specifically to the means by which an application may be made for an exemption for an accompanying adult to travel and quarantine with students in Victoria when travelling from a designated Red Zone.

We have been invited to send through information to the DoH, so it may make direct contact with those adults seeking an exemption to travel to Victoria to accompany returning students. The DoH will use this information to support granting exemptions for the parents accompanying their children.

The DoH has reiterated that the situation remains fluid and that the provision of information in support of an application for an exemption does not guarantee that an exemption will be granted; particularly given current border restrictions may change without notice. Additionally, we are tracking media reports which suggest that a hard border closure may be imminent; whilst we cannot attest to the veracity of such reporting, families may wish to consider whether with an exemption for an accompanying adult, their preference is to bring forward travel from New South Wales to undertake quarantine in Victoria.

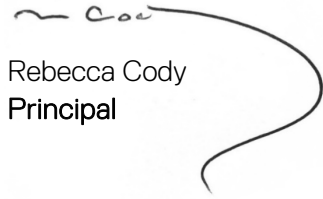
The DoH also notes that the evolving nature of the current outbreak in New South Wales means that adult applicants should continue to monitor published exposure sites. Applicants will not be able to travel to Victoria if they have been to an exposure site or if they are a primary close contact of a COVID case. Further, adult applicants travelling to Victoria once an exemption has been granted must comply with the [requirements for suitable quarantine accommodation](#) and the published COVID testing regime (a negative result following a test within 72 hours of arriving in Victoria and a Day 13 test). In addition, the DoH has indicated that accompanying adults will need to be tested prior to travel to Victoria and return a negative result. This testing needs to be undertaken as close to their departure date as possible to assist with the exemption process. The DoH will discuss these requirements with the accompanying adult when it makes contact.

Accompanying adults are asked to please complete the [Accompanying Adults from a Designed Red Zone form](#). No separate exemption application need be made per Service Victoria. The School will collate and send the information provided in this Form to the DoH, who will contact the accompanying adult directly. The DoH notes the Exemption Team is working expediently to triage applications but cautions that a significant number of applications for exemptions with varying degrees of urgency are made to the DoH each day and a response may be delayed.

Whilst we would all prefer that the contents of this Update, or any to follow, will resolve the complexities at hand, invariably the message notes small (yet not insignificant) progress. Reporting of such progress is the result of hours of advocacy on the part of senior staff and our broader community. Despite our efforts, the answers are not always what we have been seeking: for example, the School is eager to support quarantining students on site or nearby yet the Department of Education and Department of Health instructions prohibit us from taking such action.

We continue to champion for the swift and safe return of our interstate students to commence Term 3, and we thank all those parents who are supporting this advocacy in their own communities and through their own connections. As you will be aware by now from Heads of Campus, remote learning will be provided in the interim.

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

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CRICOS 00143G ABN 92 004 971 500 www.ggs.vic.edu.au