



Saturday 21 August 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

### COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #40 as at 2.00pm on Saturday 21 August

We acknowledge Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' announcement this morning that [all metropolitan Melbourne restrictions](#) (except for the curfew) will be implemented across regional Victoria from 1.00pm today until 11.59pm Thursday 2 September. Whilst this disruption is disappointing, I have confidence in our community's capacity to adapt once again, as required.

#### What we can confirm

- All schools are closed for face-to-face teaching;
- Age-appropriate Remote Learning will commence for all students from Period 1, Monday 23 August. Parents will find information on the [Hive](#) regarding the asynchronous and synchronous learning programme for our students;
- Arrangements are in place for Bostock House families to collect devices and learning materials from the front gate tomorrow, Sunday 22 August, from 11.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 1.30pm. Further information will be provided shortly by our Head of Bostock House; and
- Tonight's final performance of the Senior School Musical, *Mamma Mia!*, has been cancelled. We acknowledge the disappointment of our students, staff and families, and thank all those involved in the production across the past three nights. It was a sensational show that brought us all great joy.

#### Corio and Timbertop

- Corio and Timbertop campuses will remain open as an "authorised provider" (boarding school context), allowing boarding students to remain on site for the provision of essential care services. We are now well established with this model to care for our boarders, and this will allow them to continue their learning with minimal disruption and reduce travel-associated risks;
- Face coverings must be worn indoors and outdoors except if at home (which includes boarding Houses and Units);
- The highly infectious and rapidly spreading nature of the Delta strain means that the publication of known exposure sites is unable to keep pace with the spread of the virus. The declaration of exposure sites has currently required the School to place a Senior School boarding house in isolation pending testing. Accordingly, given the high-risk nature of our setting, **for those Corio students who are currently off campus, a negative COVID-19 test will be required to return to campus. This must be produced by 7.00pm on Tuesday 24 August** for students to return to living and learning on campus; their return being allowed for permitted education. We strongly encourage those students returning to campus to avoid stopping enroute as practicable. Students who have not returned by this time will need to remain off campus for the lockdown period (currently scheduled until September 2);
- If students are currently on leave with their primary caregivers and can access Remote Learning from their current location, they should remain with their families;
- Physical recreation will be facilitated at Corio within House "bubbles", and a COVIDSafe fitness programme will be coordinated by our expert Handbury staff;
- Day Boarding Houses are providing access for materials and resources to be collected from campus; and
- We are actively scenario planning for the upcoming September school holidays and will communicate with our community as soon as practicable. The School will continue with the Exemption Programme detailed in [Updates #38 and #39](#) and we encourage families to complete the Form provided.

## Public Exposure Sites

The Department of Health (DoH) is actively identifying and updating its list of [public exposure sites](#). We strongly encourage our community to monitor risk locations. It is vital that our community follows the DoH guidelines for testing and isolation: if you have visited a public exposure site during the times listed and/or if you are experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, please test and isolate until further direction is provided. It is also vital that if you or a close contact have visited a public exposure site and visited one of our campuses that you notify the School via [C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au).

## Early Learning @ GGS

- Early Learning Centres at Bostock House and Toorak Campus will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of authorised workers if they cannot be supervised at home.

Staff, parents, carers and children are permitted to leave their homes and travel beyond 5 km to attend our ELC services at Bostock House and Toorak Campus for vulnerable children and the children of authorised workers if they cannot be supervised at home. A permit system will be introduced for the provision of care at Early Learning Centres. We will monitor the release of details for these permits and ask families to please register their children so permits may be issued, once available.

## On-site Supervision

- Bostock House, Corio and Toorak Campus will be open for on-site supervision of vulnerable children and the children of authorised workers if they cannot be supervised at home; and
- Please note the change that any student on-site, including primary school students, will now be required to wear face masks.

To assist parents who are considered authorised workers and vulnerable children cannot be supervised at home, we will be providing on-site supervision at Bostock House, Corio and Toorak Campus from Monday 23 August from 8.15am until 4.00pm. Whilst Toorak Campus have been managing this throughout the lockdown of metropolitan Melbourne, for Bostock and Corio families to register for on-site supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 5.00pm Sunday 22 August.

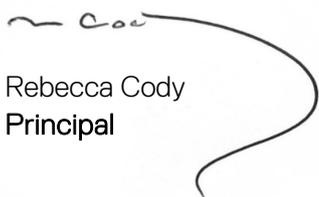
## Next steps

As ever, the School will communicate swiftly and accurately with our community as the situation evolves and more information is provided by the Victorian Government. 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). Heads of Campus will provide further details, as required, through the Hive.

Amidst the rollercoaster of emotions, the general fatigue and cycle of disappointment, we can remind one another to count our blessings. In the spirit of yesterday's Chapel Service at Toorak Campus, I am grateful for our students' tremendous capacity to keep one another buoyed and the tireless and generous efforts of our tremendous staff.

Please be well and hopeful that 'this too shall pass'.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rebecca Cody  
Principal