



Thursday 26 August 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #43 as at 3.30pm on Thursday 26 August

Public Exposure Sites – Corio

Further to [Update #42](#) published at 9.00pm last night, we are thankful that the remaining students who we identified as having visited Tier 2 exposure sites at Corio Village Shopping Centre on Saturday 21 August have all returned negative COVID test results. I am grateful for the unstinting efforts of our Corio staff to care for our students and minimise risk.

Public Exposure Sites – Timbertop

As the Department of Health (DoH) continues to actively identify and update its list of [public exposure sites](#), an operational staff member has today identified as having briefly visited a Tier 1 exposure site in Shepparton prior to the outbreak developing there being publicised. Please note:

- The staff member was tested on Sunday 22 August before returning to campus as part of our existing COVIDSafe protocols and returned a negative test result on Monday 23 August;
- The staff member was on-site at Timbertop on Tuesday 24 August and Wednesday 25 August; and
- The staff member was tested again this morning, Thursday 26 August, and is required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure.

Given our high-risk context and out of an abundance of caution, in consultation with our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron, we will now be conducting further asymptomatic COVID screening testing of all students and staff who were on-site at Timbertop on Tuesday 24 August and Wednesday 25 August. This testing will be undertaken on Friday 27 August to coincide with the third day since the staff member was first on campus following the exposure.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we continue to take a highly precautionary approach that prioritises the safety, health and wellbeing of our students, staff and their families. We are also conscious of our social responsibility to the broader Mansfield community, especially given Timbertop's unique, predominantly residential context. We take seriously our civic duty to manage various levels of risks and make proactive choices.

I am certain that our expert Timbertop staff will manage this process in a calm and professional manner. We also have great faith in our existing COVIDSafe protocols and processes, including wearing of face masks, exceptional hygiene practices and appropriate social distancing, to keep our community safe. These protocols and processes have served us well to date.

Exemption to Travel to Victoria for Interstate Families

We are still awaiting the next steps from the Department of Health (DoH) and will provide an update to relevant families as soon as further information becomes available. Parents are asked to please not to contact the DoH directly at this time; the DoH exemption team is now focussing on facilitating the group exemption application and have indicated that contact from individual families is not helpful. Parents are reminded to refer to the [September Holiday Exemption Guide](#) for further advice and steps as the travel window approaches.

Next Steps

As ever, the School will communicate swiftly and accurately with our community as the situation evolves. Thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au.

Your ongoing support and your understanding of the need for a nuanced and bespoke approach at each of our campuses is appreciated deeply.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal



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