



Wednesday 8 September 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #49 as at 9.00pm on Wednesday 8 September

We welcome today's announcement by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews that [lockdown restrictions](#) will be eased in regional Victoria from 11.59pm tomorrow night, Thursday 9 September. We particularly welcome the return to face-to-face learning for specific Year levels (as outlined below) at Bostock House and Corio. All other Year levels at Bostock House, Corio, Timbertop and Toorak Campus will continue to access our Remote Learning @ GGS programme via the [Hive](#).

Return to On-campus Learning at Bostock House

- Early Learning Centre (ELC) will re-open for all students from Friday 10 September;
- Prep to Year 2 students will return to on-campus learning from Friday 10 September;
- Given our responsibilities as an employer and the current ineligibility of vaccinations;
 - All students will undertake daily temperature checks upon arrival; and
 - All primary school-aged students are required to wear face masks, as strongly recommended by Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO), Dr Brett Sutton, and our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron.

Return to On-campus Learning and Living at Corio

Following the Premier's announcement today and our extensive planning meetings this afternoon and evening (post our vaccination hub), we can confirm:

- Year 11 and Year 12 students will have the opportunity to return to on-campus learning from Friday 10 September;
- Year 11 and Year 12 day boarding students returning to on-campus learning are required to have a COVID-19 screening test within the 72-hour period prior to returning to campus. Given this is a screening test, students are not required to be in receipt of a negative test result before returning;
- Year 11 and Year 12 boarding students returning to on-campus learning and living will require evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to campus (this is inclusive of any absence from campus until the end of Term 3, including weekend leave);
- Students unable to return to learning on campus will continue to access all classes for Years 5 to 12 through our Remote Learning @ GGS programme via the [Hive](#);
- Staff travelling from metropolitan Melbourne are required to have a COVID-19 screening test within the 72-hour period prior to returning to campus. Given this is a screening test, staff are not required to be in receipt of a negative test result before returning;
- Students, both boarding and day boarding, as well as staff travelling from metropolitan Melbourne, will be required to undertake daily temperature checks;
- Wearing of face masks will continue to be mandatory, both indoors and outdoors (with the exception being in boarding house bubbles); and
- Dining arrangements will be reset to reflect the increased movement on and off campus.

Given the high-risk nature of our residential setting at Corio, we have reviewed our COVIDSafe protocols in consultation with our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron. We continue to take a highly precautionary approach, appropriately exceeding Department of Health (DoH) guidelines and prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and their families.

Interstate Travel

We acknowledge that a proposal to establish a nationally consistent approach to managing border restrictions for boarding school students has been referred to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC). State and Territory Education Ministers have been provided with a draft code that sets out principles for States and Territories to consider when establishing their border crossing directions in relation to boarding school students.

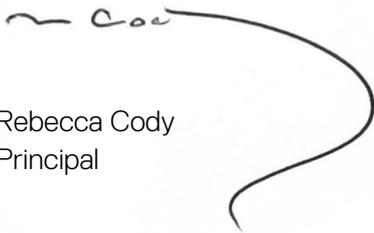
More broadly, we strongly encourage families to be aware that interstate travel restrictions are subject to change at any time and families need to assess their own risk when planning travel, including for their return to Victoria for the start of Term 4.

Next Steps

Thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au.

Whilst today's announcement does not bring welcomed news for all students, all campuses, we are grateful for the progress and the consequent opportunities.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal