



Monday 20 September 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #50 as at 4.30pm on Monday 20 September**

We have reviewed the details of [Victoria's Roadmap](#) to easing COVID-19 restrictions released yesterday, which coincided with the City of Greater Geelong, the Surf Coast and Mitchell Shire entering a [seven-day lockdown](#) from 11.59pm on Sunday 19 September.

#### **Holiday Programme**

As noted, our Corio Campus remains open across the September school holidays as an authorised provider of boarding services for Corio and Timbertop boarding students. The programme will reflect the current lockdown settings and optimise adventure education and study (revision) opportunities within prevailing Government restrictions and guidelines. Any communication regarding this programme should please be directed to [holidayprogramme@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:holidayprogramme@ggs.vic.edu.au).

#### **Victoria's Roadmap – Regional Victoria**

##### **Bostock House and Corio Campus**

We welcome the indicative timeline (dependent upon vaccination levels) for return to on-campus learning for our Early Learning Centre (ELC) and Prep to Year 2 students at Bostock House. These students will resume on-campus learning from Tuesday 5 October 2021. Parents should continue to complete the [Daily Health Questionnaire](#) for their child; students will have their temperature tested upon arrival on campus and primary aged students are required to wear masks.

Our Bostock House and Corio campuses are open for vulnerable children and children of single parents and authorised providers, authorised workers or authorised health services (as per [APAW list](#)). to register for on-site supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 5.00pm on Thursday 30 September.

For Year 11 and Year 12 students studying VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects and final year IB students, face-to-face learning will resume at Corio from the commencement of Term 4. The GAT is scheduled for Tuesday 5 October 2021.

Our Corio campus will re-open for the commencement of Term 4 as an authorised provider of residential services (boarding school context) for students in Years 7 through to Year 12. Students yet to commence face-to-face learning will be supported through the continuation of the Remote Learning@GGS programme with phased return to the classroom as roadmap milestones are met.

Year 11 students studying VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects will be able to attend for face-to-face learning in the classroom for these specific subjects and will then be provided with supervision for their Year 11 programme, which will be delivered remotely to all Year 11 students until the roadmap allows for the return of students to the classroom.

Please also be aware that consistent with usual practice, the first weekend of Term 4 will be categorised as a closed weekend for boarders. Dependent on the number of cases within the broader community, our closed weekend timeframe may need to be extended.

We await further advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO) on Thursday 30 September about the anticipated staggered return to on-campus learning for remaining year levels at Bostock House and Corio.

### **Timbertop**

We confirm our Timbertop campus will re-open for the commencement of Term 4 as an authorised provider of residential services (boarding school context) and will comply with remote learning restrictions as directed by Victorian government authorities.

### **Victoria's Roadmap – Metropolitan Melbourne (Toorak Campus)**

We welcome further the indicative timeline (dependent upon vaccination levels) for the resumption of on-campus learning at our Toorak Campus in Term 4.

- From 18 October, on-campus learning will be open for:
  - Early Learning Centre (ELC) for vulnerable children and children of single parents and authorised providers, authorised workers or authorised health services (as per [APAW list](#));
  - Prep (Monday-Wednesday);
  - Years 1 and 2 (Thursday and Friday); and
  - Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) operating all days.
- From October 26, on-campus learning will be opened for:
  - Years 3 and 4 (Tuesday and Wednesday); and
  - Years 5 and 6 (Thursday and Friday).
- From November 5, on-campus learning will be opened for:
  - All year levels (all days).

We acknowledge that a more detailed roadmap has been provided for our metropolitan campus; however, we anticipate our regional campuses are likely to move to onsite learning ahead of these timeframes and therefore particular dates are yet to be published. The State government has noted that a “guard-rail” system will be place allowing the public health team to adjust the easing of restrictions if hospital admissions become too high. As soon as dates are published, we shall inform our community.

### **Vaccinations**

For those eligible students yet to be vaccinated, we encourage families wishing to have their child/children vaccinated during the September school holidays to explore opportunities with a local vaccination hub, doctor, pharmacy, or community health service.

We are grateful that we were able to offer on-site Pfizer vaccinations at Corio to prioritised groups in Term 3 through the generous support of the RMIT Medical Hub. Please note that it is a requirement of RMIT Medical Hub that those students who utilised the on-site vaccination hub at Corio must have their second Pfizer vaccination dose administered by RMIT Medical Hub at Corio. We are finalising plans for the second Pfizer vaccination doses to be administered in Term 4.

As previously noted by our Head of Timbertop, Tom Hall, we will be offering three separate vaccination clinics at Timbertop in Term 4 to capture all possible timings and dose logistics. Timbertop families should refer to the recent [Timbertop Update on the Hive](#) for more information.

The Premier announced that school and childcare staff will become the next workforce group “prioritised for assessment” following healthcare workers. The Premier did not give a date or confirmation as to whether vaccination may become a requirement for school staff.

## Risk Mitigation

We actively review 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. Our risk mitigation measures for on-campus learning at the commencement of Term 4 will include:

- All students, both boarding and day students (as well as staff travelling from metropolitan Melbourne), will be required to undertake daily temperature checks and complete the [Daily Health Questionnaire](#);
- Wearing of face masks will continue to be mandatory, both indoors and outdoors (with the exception being in boarding house bubbles), for both secondary school and primary school-aged students, as strongly recommended by Victoria's Chief Health Officer (CHO) and our Senior Medical Officer; and

Prior to returning to campus, all residential students at Corio and Timbertop will require receipt of a COVID-19 negative test result from a test taken within 72 hours of returning to campus. At the testing centre, please indicate that your child is a member of a residential community; this notification may assist with swift processing of the result. The requirement of a negative test result prior to returning to campus is a response to the increased risk posed by the Delta variant.

## National Code for Boarding School Students

The National Cabinet endorsed the National Code for Boarding School Students on Friday 17 September 2021. The Code provides States and Territories with principles to develop common sense, COVIDSafe travel arrangements to assist students and their families navigate border restrictions. All States and Territories have been urged to implement arrangements as soon as possible to help facilitate travel within the parameters of the National Code which seeks a clear, compassionate, and practical approach to supporting the travel needs of boarding school students within relevant health advice. The School awaits further announcements from the Victorian Department of Health (DoH) as to how this may streamline travel arrangements for students seeking to return from interstate for the commencement of Term 4. We shall keep families updated.

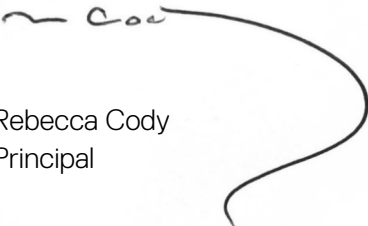
## Next Steps

Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews, indicated that the CHO will provide further advice about the return to on-campus learning across regional Victoria on Thursday 30 September. Please remain assured that the School will continue to communicate with you swiftly and accurately as the situation evolves regarding Term 4 arrangements.

Thank you for continuing to direct all COVID-19 related queries to [C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au).

Whilst yesterday's announcements did not answer all our questions and/or provide certainty regarding the return to on-campus learning for all year levels, we are grateful that Victoria's Roadmap does provide some direction and certainty for the remainder of the 2021 academic year.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rebecca Cody  
Principal