



Thursday 30 September 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #51 as at 8.00pm on Thursday 30 September

We welcome [this afternoon's announcement](#) by Victoria's Minister for Education James Merlino confirming a staggered return of face-to-face learning for students in regional Victoria across the first two weeks of Term 4. We are also heartened by the positive progress of vaccinations across the State, despite the growing number of COVID-19 infections and the highly infectious nature of the Delta variant.

As you are already aware, we actively review our COVIDSafe protocols in consultation with our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Fergus Cameron. We have completed another review late this afternoon (post the Minister's press release) and continue to take a highly precautionary approach, exceeding Department of Health (DoH) guidelines where appropriate for our context, and prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and their families.

Bostock House

We look forward to the resumption of on-campus learning at our Bostock House in Term 4.

- From October 5, on-campus learning will resume for:
 - Early Learning Centre (ELC); and
 - Prep to Year 2;
- From October 12, on-campus learning will be opened for:
 - Years 3 and 4 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- From October 26, on-campus learning will be opened for:
 - All year levels (all days).

Please also note:

- Parents should continue to complete the [Daily Health Questionnaire](#) for their child;
- Students will have their temperature tested upon arrival on campus;
- Primary-aged students (Prep to Year 4) are required to wear masks both indoors and outdoors; and
- Students who live in metropolitan Melbourne will be able to attend on-campus learning with their year level.

Bostock House will be open for vulnerable children and children of single parents and authorised providers, authorised workers or authorised health services (as per [APAW list](#)) from the start of Term 4. To register for on-site supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 12 noon tomorrow, Friday 1 October.

Corio Campus

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 a staggered return to the classroom.

- On October 5, the GAT will take place on-campus for all Year 12 students and Year 11 students studying VCE Unit 3 and 4 subjects, and all Year 12 IB students.
- From October 6, on-campus face-to-face learning will be opened for:
 - All Year 11 and 12 students for all classes.
- From October 11, on-campus face-to-face learning will be opened for:
 - Year 7 students (Monday-Friday);
 - Year 8 students (Tuesday and Wednesday); and
 - Years 5, 6 and 10 students (Thursday and Friday).
- From October 26, on-campus face-to-face learning will be opened for:
 - All year levels (all days).

Please also note:

- Prior to returning to campus on the date stipulated above, all day students and all boarding students will be required to provide a PCR COVID-19 negative test result from a test taken within 72 hours of returning to campus. The negative test result is to be emailed to your child's Head of House prior to their return 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 for the provision of a negative test result prior to returning to campus is a response to the increased risk posed by the Delta variant. As outlined in this afternoon's announcement by Minister Merlino, Senior School day boarding students travelling daily from metropolitan Melbourne to attend on-campus must either be tested twice weekly or be double vaccinated; 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;
- Consistent with our practice in 2020, closed weekends for boarders will continue in Term 4 until further notice. We will continue to review closed weekends, dependent on the number of cases within the broader community, noting that health reports are suggesting that peak case numbers may yet be four to six weeks away.

Our Corio Campus will be open for vulnerable children and children of single parents and authorised providers, authorised workers or authorised health services (as per [APAW list](#)) from the start of Term 4. To register for on-site supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 12 noon tomorrow, Friday 1 October.

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) on 4 October 2021. We will comply with remote learning restrictions, including the staggered return to face-to-face learning for our students from October 11.

Prior to returning to campus, all students will be required to provide evidence of a PCR COVID-19 negative test result from a test taken within 72 hours of returning to campus. At the testing centre, please indicate that you 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. The negative test result is to be emailed to your child's Head of Unit prior to their return to campus.

Toorak Campus

We look forward to the resumption of on-campus learning at our Toorak Campus in Term 4 as per the indicative timeline (dependent upon vaccination levels) outlined in [Victoria's Roadmap](#).

- 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:
 - Early Learning Centre (ELC) parents/carers (or, in a single parent family, the single parent/carer) who are fully vaccinated (received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine);
 - 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).

Please also note:

- 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 (Prep to Year 6) are required to wear masks both indoors and outdoors.

Toorak Campus will be open for vulnerable children and children of single parents and authorised providers, authorised workers or authorised health services (as per [APAW list](#)) from the start of Term 4. To register for on-site supervision, please complete the [Registration Form](#) no later than 12 noon tomorrow, Friday 1 October.

National Code for Boarding School Students

The National Cabinet endorsed the National Code for Boarding School Students on Friday 17 September 2021. We continue to await further announcements from the Victorian Department of Health (DoH) as to how this may streamline travel arrangements for interstate students. Please note, however, that the implementation of the National Code will not overcome the quarantine requirements upon arrival in the State. Students will still need to quarantine off campus for a period of 14 days prior to resuming living and learning on campus. We shall continue to keep families updated.

Next Steps

The government is yet to release an updated Operations Guide for schools. As such, information contained within this Update is subject to change and we may well be publishing further communiques tomorrow and/or across the weekend. We appreciate that the timing of such communications may be frustrating yet we are reliant upon advice from the relevant authorities and will connect with you as soon as proper time has been allowed to enable a review of the yet to be published Guide.

Whilst today's announcement does not provide an immediate return to on-campus learning for all year levels for the start of Term 4, we are grateful that Victoria's Roadmap does provide some direction for the remainder of the 2021 academic year.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Cody".

Rebecca Cody
Principal

