



Wednesday 1 December 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School (GGS),

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #59 as at 5.00pm on Wednesday 1 December

We remain alert but not alarmed by the recent detection of the Omicron variant which has been declared a “variant of concern” by the World Health Organization (WHO). We will continue to monitor the evolving situation, grateful that Australia is now one of the most vaccinated countries in the world. We also acknowledge and applaud our School community’s high COVID-19 vaccination rate. Currently, more than 98% of eligible students (aged 12 years and over) at Corio and Timbertop are fully vaccinated, having received two doses.

QR Codes and Visitors to Campus

As noted in [Update #57](#), the Daily Health Questionnaire (DHQ) has been replaced by QR code check-in through the Service Victoria app for all of our campuses. QR code check-in does not apply for students and staff; any required contact tracing will rely upon attendance records ordinarily maintained by the School. Spectators of outdoor sport will also not be required to check-in. Should spectators enter an indoor space, they will be required to be fully vaccinated and to check-in through the QR code/Service Victoria app.

The updated School Operations Guide published by the Department of Education (DoE) provides guidelines on check-in through the QR code/Service Victoria app and vaccination requirements for parents, carers and other adult visitors attending on campus, including:

- Parents, carers and other adult visitors who enter School buildings must check-in using the QR code and must have had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine or hold a valid medical exemption; and
- Parents, carers and other adult visitors attending a gathering at School, such as an End of Term assembly or graduation ceremony, whether indoors or outdoors, must show evidence of vaccination on arrival.

Heads of Campus will communicate with families in more detail as to End of Term arrangements given these updated requirements.

Masks

Masks must continue to be worn indoors in primary school settings by all students, staff and visitors. At Corio, this will apply anytime anyone is indoors with Years 5 and 6 students. At our Bostock House and Toorak campuses, masks will be worn at all times indoors by all primary-aged students, staff and visitors.

Overseas Students

Earlier this week, [the Australian Government announced a pause to the further easing of border restrictions](#) in response to the recent spread of the Omicron variant. The planned easing of restrictions for eligible visa holders, including overseas students, which were due to be implemented from 1 December 2021 have been paused until 15 December 2021.

We will continue to closely monitor this situation and provide an update for our overseas-based families when further information is available.

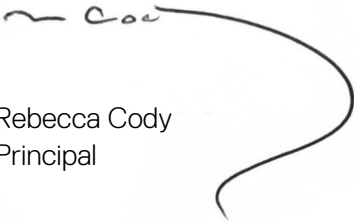
Thank you for continuing to direct all queries related to overseas students returning to GGS to escarlett@ggs.vic.edu.au.

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

Thank you

Finally for now, whilst it may be hopeful, I am imagining this will be the final COVID-19 Update for 2021. As such, it is timely and fitting that I celebrate the extraordinary contributions of our staff across 2021. Keeping our students and colleagues well, and campuses from closing due to an outbreak, have been no small feats. Each has required a unique tenacity and extraordinary stamina, especially given the scale of our boarding operations. I marvel too at the length of remote learning, particularly for Toorak Campus, and the capacity of our teachers to adapt to ongoing changes to restrictions whilst simultaneously keeping learners buoyed and engaged. Across the four campuses, our operational teams too have excelled, generously evolving to new circumstances and ever mindful of the students in our care. For all their efforts and expertise, I applaud our exceptional staff.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody
Principal