



Monday 24 January 2022

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

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #3 as at 5.30pm on Monday 24 January**

We welcome [yesterday's announcement](#) by Premier Daniel Andrews about the Victorian Government's plan to keep schools open and to provide Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for at least the first four weeks of Term 1. The updated School Operations Guide, effective as of Monday 31 January, has now been published by the Department of Education (DoE). Consequently, we have reviewed and are evolving our wide-reaching risk mitigation steps, prioritising the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, and exceeding Department of Health (DoH) guidelines where appropriate for our context.

#### **Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)**

We are pleased to confirm that the School anticipates receipt of a supply of RATs this week in advance of the first week of Term 1. Heads of Campus will shortly provide details about the distribution of these RATs to families of day students (provided in packs of 5 individual tests), whilst testing of boarding students will be coordinated by Houses/Units.

The Victorian Government plan strongly recommends twice weekly surveillance testing of all primary and secondary school students and staff for at least the first four weeks of Term 1. The School recommends:

- Students complete surveillance testing every Monday and Thursday at home before they attend school;
- Students who record a positive result are required to notify the School via [Hive](#) and complete the Victorian Government's [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#);
- Students who record a positive test result must immediately isolate for seven days, whilst household contacts of any person who records a positive result must also isolate for seven days;
- The School is obliged to notify the School community when a student or staff member records a positive result – this notification will be published at 4.00pm daily on [Hive](#) with relevant details of year level, class group, House and cocurricular activities so families can monitor if this impacts their child/children; and
- The School is not required to collect proof of negative test results.

The School continues to strongly encourage families to monitor for symptoms – if students present COVID-19 symptoms, they will be tested immediately and, if they record a positive result, they must go home or into the care of their COVID Emergency Contact for the required period before returning to campus. Students must not attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

#### **Boarding Students**

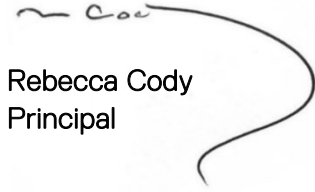
The Department of Health (DoH) is meeting today to discuss COVIDSafe settings for boarding schools. We await further advice from the DoH regarding the classification of household, social and workplace contacts as relevant to our residential context. As previously outlined in [Update #1](#), boarding students are requested to provide a supply of 5 to 10 RATs to commence the year. It is not a condition of enrolment that boarding students provide this supply of RATs but it is helpful that in addition to the required twice weekly RAT testing for students (for which government sourced RATs will be available for all students), boarding students have a supply of RATs which they may access as required. We recognise that RATs are not currently easily accessible, but we ask you please make arrangements as best as you can in the current

circumstances to source and provide your child with RATs prior to their arrival on our Timbertop and Corio campuses.

## FAQs

Thank you for continuing to direct any COVID-19 related queries to [C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au](mailto:C19questions@ggs.vic.edu.au). Noting that there has been a pattern of queries and number of consistent themes have emerged, it is timely that the School provide you with an overview of responses to these [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Please refer to these [FAQs](#) in the first instance; they will be regularly updated, informed by the School Operations Guide. Where there are matters particular to the health and wellbeing of your child, individual responses will be provided.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody  
Principal