



Wednesday 16 February 2022

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

### **COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #6 as at 3.30pm on Wednesday 16 February**

Following continued consultation with the Department of Health (DoH) and our Senior Medical Officer, Professor Ferguson Cameron, we have made the following adjustment to our management of positive COVID-19 cases, as outlined in [Version #12.0 of our COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan](#):

- Students returning to living on campus after completing their quarantine period must produce a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on the day prior to return and again when they return to campus.

Our expert advice is that up to 13% of people continue to be infectious for up to 10 days after testing positive and that a RAT will indicate if a person is in the “infectious phase”. We acknowledge that the expectation of testing negative prior to returning to campus is a higher threshold than that of the general population; however, this standard reflects the higher risk level associated with residential communities with shared bathrooms and common spaces, and dormitory arrangements.

To assist families further, the following advice provides clarity for parents of boarding students who are required to leave campus to quarantine/isolate.

#### **Advice for Families of Boarding Students who tests positive for COVID-19:**

- Your child is required to quarantine for 7 days from the day of the positive test;
- If they have not undertaken a PCR test at school before departure, you are strongly encouraged to take them for a PCR test as early as possible;
- Members of the household in which your child isolates are not considered household contacts because your child was not with you prior to testing positive;
- Upon collection, your child will be issued with a N95 mask for travel back home;
- We encourage all people travelling with your child to ensure the vehicle is ventilated and members of the vehicle wear N95 masks;
- Testing positive on a RAT means that your child is infectious and effective in-home isolation is strongly encouraged to ensure there is no onward transmission to other household members; and
- Your child can return to school on the 8th day after their initial positive test if they:
  - Have been asymptomatic for 24 hours;
  - Test negative on a RAT the day prior to return to campus (a positive RAT indicates that they are still infectious); and
  - Test negative on a RAT upon arrival at campus.

#### **Advice for Families of Boarding Students who have been identified as ‘household like’ contacts of a positive case:**

- Your child is required to quarantine for 7 days from the day of their potential exposure (the positive test date of the index case);
- If they have not undertaken a PCR test at school before departure, you are strongly encouraged to take them for a PCR test as early as possible;
- Members of the household in which your child isolates are not considered household contacts because your child is not a confirmed positive case;

- We encourage RAT surveillance testing every two days and reporting of results to your child's Head of House/Head of Unit;
- If your child tests positive whilst at home, their quarantine period resets and they begin a 7-day quarantine period from the date of their positive test (you will also be required to complete the Victorian Government's [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#));
- Upon collection, your child will be issued with a N95 mask for travel back home;
- We encourage all people travelling with your child to ensure the vehicle is ventilated and members of the vehicle wear N95 masks; and
- Your child can return to school on the 8th day after their exposure to a positive case if they:
  - Have not subsequently tested positive themselves;
  - Have been asymptomatic for 24 hours;
  - Test negative on a RAT the day prior to return to campus; and
  - Test negative on a RAT upon arrival at campus

### **Booster doses for 16 to 18-year-olds**

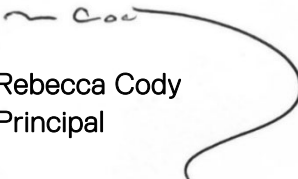
Whilst the School is actively exploring bringing forward booster doses at Corio and we are optimistic of hosting an initial on-site clinic as early as next week, we strongly encourage all parents of 16 to 18-year-olds (including those have turned 16 since their primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine) to explore booking a third (booster) dose, particularly if students are returning home for exeat this weekend. You can [book online](#) for a third dose at your nearest Victorian Government vaccination centre or consult your local doctor or health care professional.

### **Thank you**

Again, your support and understanding as we strive to adapt to the impact of the Omicron variant is appreciated greatly; this approach helps us to keep our students well and learning at school.

Thank you also for continuing to reference our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#), which are regularly updated, informed by the Department of Education (DoE) School Operations Guide.

Yours sincerely,

  
Rebecca Cody  
Principal