



Wednesday 25 August 2021

Dear Families and Friends of Geelong Grammar School,

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) – Update #42 as at 9.00pm on Wednesday 25 August

### **Public Exposure Sites**

We are very thankful that the students who we identified yesterday as having visited Tier 2 exposure sites at Corio Village Shopping Centre between 12.15pm-2.00pm on Saturday 21 August have all returned negative COVID test results. Given our context and out of an abundance of caution, we have since identified additional students that visited the Shopping Centre within the boundary of these times. Priority one testing was conducted today on campus by our Kennedy Health Centre team. This impacts one boarding House, which is now in isolation until confirmation of negative test results.

Yesterday's announcement of the Tier 2 exposure sites and the subsequent requirements called for a mighty collaborative effort to minimise the potential risks, keep the community calm, attend to all regulations, and ultimately care for one another through a period that caused feelings of anxiety for some. I wish to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of our Corio staff, and in particular our Heads of House, boarding and nursing teams throughout the period of House isolation. Indeed, everyone involved in supporting our students and staff are to be commended.

### **Vaccinations at Corio campus**

Following yesterday's announcement that people aged 16 to 39 are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine in Victoria, we welcome Deputy Premier and Education Minister James Merlino's comments earlier today that vaccinating Year 12 students before examinations commence is a "priority". Mr Merlino said that the Victorian government wanted all secondary student aged 16 and over to "get vaccinated as soon as you're able". Consequently, we are progressing plans for on-site Pfizer vaccinations at Corio; specifically:

- we are currently working with RMIT Medical Hub to secure a sufficient supply of Pfizer vaccines to establish an on-site vaccination hub for our students aged 16 years and older;
- an approach has been made to relevant authorities to secure 400-500 doses;
- should we be successful, a booking system will be set up and a link sent for interested parents to make a booking on behalf of their child;
- our aim is to offer this service to all eligible students seeking to be vaccinated prior to the end of Term 3;
- we are conscious that the current eligibility criteria may be widened to include 12 to 15-year-olds and RMIT Medical Hub is working on expanding the request which may then allow us to provide the option of vaccinations for our Year 7, 8 and Timbertop students; and
- we will continue to communicate more details as our planning evolves.

Part of our strategy to safeguard boarding provisions is to limit on and off campus movement; however, if your child has remained in-house at Corio and you have an urgent reason to access a vaccination through [Barwon Health Vaccination Hub](#) at the old Ford factory, please aim to make your bookings in the afternoons between noon and 3.00pm. Using this time window will allow us to facilitate transport and offer wellbeing support. Please notify your child's Head of House immediately if you secure a vaccination booking.

Please note that our School does not currently hold a policy position on enrolments/attendance and vaccinations; any stance will be informed by the prevailing context and current medical advice.

### Exemption to Travel to Victoria for Interstate Families

We are pleased to advise that the School has submitted the requested information to the Department of Health (DoH) on behalf of those parents and family units (including younger siblings) to assist them to quarantine for the relevant period prior to being reunited with their children for the upcoming September holidays. We are awaiting the next steps from the DoH and will provide an update to relevant families as soon as further information becomes available; however, parents are reminded to refer to the [September Holiday Exemption Guide](#) for further advice as the travel window approaches.

### Holiday Arrangements for Boarding Students

We continue to map possibilities of working to support families regarding the upcoming September holidays. This work involves a delicate balance of numerous considerations, including assisting with vulnerable student needs, student and staff wellbeing, and workplace health and safety. As the situation continues to evolve rapidly, we're currently scenario planning.

### Next steps

Given the time sensitive nature of the items listed above, we expect to publish frequent Updates in the coming days. Heads of Campus will also provide further details, as required, through the Hive.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we navigate our way through the mire of complexity.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Cody  
Principal



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#### Principal's Study

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