

COVID UPDATE #21

Dear Families,

I write to you regarding the return to face-to-face learning at Gleeson College on Wednesday 28 July.

The past four days of online learning have been very successful, and I would like to thank our students for the positive way they have engaged. I also want to acknowledge the work done by staff in the preparation and delivery of this mode of learning, and the support of parents and caregivers at home.

As you would be aware, we have recorded very few new cases of the Delta strain of COVID-19 in South Australia. In short, things have improved more rapidly than what was expected. As we return, we will continue to follow the health advice of government agencies.

A range of restrictions will apply to schools from Wednesday. These include:

Masks

All students and staff in high schools (CESA schools Year 7 to 12) will be expected to wear masks at school. As the Premier suggested, masks should be considered a new item of uniform for secondary school students.

Students are to bring a mask(s) suitable for medical purposes and will be expected to wear them during all lessons and when congregating e.g., the canteen line. Students must also wear masks while travelling on public transport and College bus services.

Masks are not to have inappropriate logos, pictures or language displayed on them. The College will have a limited number of spare surgical masks available.

All adult visitors to the College must wear a mask.

The following exemptions apply:

- Staff when teaching or engaging with students
- Practical PE lessons
- Staff and students when outside
- Students or staff who have a medical condition, disability or mental health condition that prevents them from wearing a face mask.

For guidance on how to wear a face mask and disposal of face masks, please visit [SA Health's website](#).

Canteen

The Canteen will be open as normal; students are asked to wear masks whilst lining up and whilst inside the Canteen. To alleviate congestion, we encourage pre-ordering via the QKR app. Only four students will be permitted inside the Canteen at any time.

School Sport and Physical Education

SAPSASA and interschool sporting events, carnivals, and trials will be postponed.

Before/afterschool sports trainings can continue, this will commence from this Thursday with our netball teams. PE and sport classes can continue.

Camps/Excursions/Trips

All excursions and camps must be postponed or cancelled for the time being i.e., for the next week. Please see 'Events/Gatherings' below for further info. The only exception would be school visits to local parks that are within walking distance.

Parent Attendance at School

Access to schools will be limited to staff, students and essential services. Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles at drop off and pick up times. Whilst we are facing restrictions, please contact the College by phone or email rather than visiting in person.

Essential Services

Essential services include professionals who support the learning and wellbeing of students and staff, and as such, allied health professionals will be allowed on site. Construction, facilities and maintenance workers will also be allowed on site. Music Tutors will be on site mindful of physical distancing.

Events/Gatherings

Large, whole school gatherings and events will be postponed. Smaller year level meetings may continue where deemed essential by the College Leadership Team.

At this stage we can confirm that the Year 11 Semi-Formal (Week 3) will need to be postponed, as will the Year 9 Camp (Week 4).

We are awaiting advice from the Golden Grove Recreation and Arts Centre regarding possibilities around the Musical and will provide further updates around other College events as soon as we can.

Students at Home

Some students may be in quarantine as a result of SA Health directions. They can continue to access work and learning as far as practicably possible through SEQTA.

Some families may choose to keep their children at home for COVID related reasons, for example medically vulnerable students. It is important to note that teachers will be conducting face to face learning only and so, whilst work will be accessible through SEQTA, teachers will not be available to students online during timetabled lessons. Students working from home can still communicate with their teachers through email or 'direct' messaging in SEQTA but teachers will not be in a position to respond immediately.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support as we start our important transition back to face-to-face learning and eventually to 'normality' sometime in the future.

Kindest regards,

**Joe Corbo,
Principal**