



THE
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28 January, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The College has been closely monitoring the ongoing updates from the Government, health professionals, education departments and other sources of information on the outbreak of the coronavirus in the Hubei province of China. This information is changing daily, and we will continue to update our community as the situation evolves, and more is understood about the virus.

With the 2020 school year about to start it is imperative that we take all the necessary steps to ensure the safety of our community.

In accordance with the current guidelines from the Department of Health, staff or students who have recently returned from China and are well and have not had close contact with a confirmed case, are able to attend work or school as normal.

Close contact is defined as living in the same household, 15 minutes face-to-face contact with a person with confirmed coronavirus in any setting or sharing a closed space with a person with confirmed coronavirus for more than 2 hours.

If you have been in China during the holidays, you should feel confident to send your child to school unless they display symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, in which case, as with other viruses, you should keep your child at home until the symptoms have cleared. If you have any doubts, please consult your doctor in the first instance.

We ask anyone who has travelled to Wuhan and the Hubei region, the source of the virus, or has been in contact with others from this region to delay their return to school for a period of 2 weeks from their arrival back in Australia.

If you have travelled through China during the past three weeks can I ask that you send an email to principal@geelongcollege.vic.edu.au so that we are aware.

Our Medical Centre will monitor the health of our international boarders who have returned from China upon their arrival back at school on Wednesday 29 January. Any student who displays flu like symptoms will be taken to hospital for further assessment.

The Geelong College
PO Box 5 Geelong VIC 3220
150 Noble Street Newtown VIC 3220
ABN 22 005 988 205 CRICOS: 00142G

Senior School: Talbot St Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 3111
Middle School: Aberdeen St Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 8444
Junior School: Minerva Rd Newtown Phone: +61 3 5226 8433
Email: info@tgc.vic.edu.au
Website: www.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au



The most up to date information can be found on the Victorian Department of Health website [here](#). For those returning from China this week please also refer to the attached information sheet.

We thank you for your understanding of this situation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Miller', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Peter Miller

Principal

