

Coronavirus Update

Friday, 19 November 2021

Dear colleagues,

Victoria is on the verge of reaching a 90 per cent double-dose vaccination target, an outstanding achievement, providing our community with high levels of protection against COVID-19.

The Victorian Government has announced a “return to normal” for fully vaccinated Victorians from today. Please read the information below regarding:

- Major changes to restrictions, face mask rules and COVID-19 isolation and testing rules
- Revised policy on end-of-year staff events and student events on campus.

Major restriction changes from Friday 19 November

The following easing of rules apply to fully vaccinated Victorians over 12 years old:

- Masks are no longer required on campus, aside from indoor retail (such as FedLiving stores) and for staff in hospitality (not customers)
- No more caps or density limits on workplaces, education settings, hospitality, events, retail, community facilities and fitness centres etc.
- No restrictions on visitors to your home (strongly encourage all visitors to be fully vaccinated) but for FedLiving accommodation, all visitors must be fully vaccinated.

Notification of a positive COVID-19 test result

There is now greater responsibility on the individual to provide notification of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, rather than relying on health authorities.

You are required to let your employer, Federation University Australia, know if you test positive for COVID-19 so your colleagues and students can get tested and be cleared.

To report a positive COVID-19 test result, call the HR hotline on **(03) 5122 6300** (8:30am

to 5:00pm) and after hours, call our emergency phone number 1800 333 732.

End of year events – revised policy

As we return to campus in 2022, we know that many staff would love the opportunity to have an end-of-year gathering with their team. The COVID-19 Transition Control Group has reviewed the University's policy on end of year events, and we are delighted to announce that these can now go ahead – but the following requirements apply.

- All people involved in end of year events must be fully vaccinated. You must adhere to all face mask rules in place at the time of the gathering.
- If using on campus hospitality services, no shared plates or self-service are allowed, but service of food by a hospitality staff member is allowed.
- If you are meeting off campus, you must adhere to all requirements for the venue including QR code scanning and evidence of vaccination.

Other standard rules apply in relation to staff gatherings:

- If Schools or Directorates are arranging Planning Days, these events should be held on-campus during office hours and using University catering (individually packaged servings or hospitality staff to serve food)
- If teams in Schools or Directorate organise an end of year function, the University is happy to support up to half a day, paid away from work to give you this opportunity to catch up with colleagues before the Christmas break. If you are unable to attend, your usual work arrangements apply
- Meals, alcohol and accommodation directly associated with Christmas functions will not be paid for by the University as these create fringe benefits tax implications. In accordance with the University's [Gifts, Benefits, Hospitality, Food and Beverages Policy](#), the consumption of alcohol during work hours is subject to approval by a member of the Vice Chancellor's Senior Team. Where alcohol is served, the provisions of the University's [Alcohol and Other Drugs Procedure](#) should be adhered to.

This is a great opportunity to start catching up with colleagues before we start working on campus again, but we also want it to be COVID safe, so no one's holiday break is affected by an avoidable period of quarantine!

Current and prospective student events – revised policy

Events involving current and prospective students can now also go ahead on campus with the following rules in place.

- All students, staff and members of the public attending (over 12 years old) must be fully vaccinated. This is the same rule that applies to visiting our campuses.
- They must scan QR codes and adhere to any face mask rules in place at the time.
- If using on campus hospitality services, no shared plates or self-service are allowed, but service of food by a hospitality staff member is allowed.

Remember the five basic principles for staying safe on campus

1. If you feel unwell – don't come to campus. If you have symptoms similar to COVID-19 you must get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible and self-isolate until you receive a negative result.
2. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and others and download your vaccination certificate.
3. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs.
4. You must comply with any directives regarding wearing a face mask and maintain 1.5m physical distancing whenever possible.
5. Facilities are in place for all students, staff and visitors to frequently wash or sanitise their hands and clean communal spaces that they use.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

Federation University footer

