

**Subject:** Coronavirus Update  
**Date:** Monday, 9 August 2021 4:49:00 PM



## Coronavirus Update

Monday 9 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

There is good news in Brisbane and surprise news in regional Victoria today, with the announcement of the end of lockdown.

However, a range of pre-lockdown restrictions remain in place and our thoughts are with staff and students in metropolitan Melbourne who remain in lockdown. Hopefully restrictions will ease for them this Friday.

Specific advice on restrictions for the different areas are below, as well as the impacts for Federation's operations.

### **Brisbane Campus from Monday 9 August:**

- **Federation University's Brisbane Campus is open from today**
- **Brisbane staff and students can resume work and study on campus. Check Moodle for normal timetable information.**

### **Regional Victoria from Tuesday 10 August:**

- **Ballarat, Gippsland and Horsham campuses reopen Tuesday 10 August**
- **Practical learning activities in Higher Education and TAFE can be held on campus from Tuesday 10 August but non-practical activities continue online until restrictions are further eased. Students are welcome to visit campus if they need to**
- **25 per cent of office staff can return to campus from Tuesday 10 August, Deans and Directors will start discussions with professional and general staff on who can return, with priority given to staff who cannot effectively perform their job from home or whose work is essential for supporting students on campus. Teaching staff are not included in density limits and can resume teaching on campus, noting classes and lectures will remain online, pending government advice**

- **Fed College and Ballarat Tech School resume on campus from Tuesday 10 August**
- **Placements in industries such as healthcare and education continue onsite, with alternative arrangements including work from home for other placements**
- **Libraries, fitness centres, hospitality and retail can reopen on campus but with restrictions in place.**

#### **Melbourne metropolitan area until Friday 13 August:**

- **Berwick Campus remains closed until Friday 13 August, pending government advice**
- **Higher Education at Berwick remain as online delivery until Friday 13 August. However, some practical activities will continue on campus this week. Students will be contacted directly via email and/or Moodle with specific advice**
- **All staff should work from home, aside from a small group of essential workers on campus who will be contacted by their line manager. If you need to access campus to pick up equipment to effectively work from home, please speak to your manager and contact Security to access your office. Scan a QR code on arrival**
- **Staff and students who live in the Melbourne metropolitan area but work or study at a regional Victorian campus must work or study from home, unless they are classified as carrying out authorised study or work, under Victorian Government restrictions. Find the [list of authorised workers here](#).**

**Across all campuses, staff and students must wear face masks at all times (aside from teaching, eating or drinking), must scan QR codes on arrival at campus, and maintain 1.5 metres physical distance wherever possible.**

**Please do not come to campus if you are unwell. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (cold or flu symptoms, fever, loss of taste or smell) please get tested and isolate until you receive a negative result.**

#### **Restrictions in SE QLD until 4:00pm Sunday 22 August**

The Queensland Government had good news for our Brisbane staff and students yesterday with the end of the South East Queensland lockdown across 11 LGAs. However, some restrictions remain, and Cairns went into a three-day lockdown yesterday at 4:00pm due a mystery COVID-19 case.

- **Mask wearing at all times (including workplaces) except when eating, drinking or exercising with your household members or one other person.**
- **Schools will reopen, with all staff and high school students wearing masks.**
- **Limit of 10 people in your home, including people who live there.**

- Businesses and venues must comply with one person per four square metres, or 50 percent capacity with seated, ticket allocations. Community sport not permitted.
- Avoid travelling to regional Queensland.

Staff in Queensland can find full details of restrictions at [COVID-19 update | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

## Regional Victoria restrictions change

From 11:59pm tonight, the following restrictions apply in regional Victoria. The full table of restrictions is attached for detailed advice or go to [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

- **General** – The five reasons to leave your home are removed. There is no kilometre limit in place or 2-hour limit on exercise.
- **Travel** – Travel is permitted throughout regional Victoria, but you cannot travel to metro Melbourne except for a permitted reason.
- **Education** – Adult education returns for practical education, but if you can study from home you should continue to. Primary and secondary schools reopen.
- **Workplaces** – 25 per cent return for office staff, but if you can work from home you should. Deans and Directors will discuss this with their staff.
- **Face masks** – You must still wear face masks indoors and outdoors. Modelling shows that masks played a huge role in slowing the spread of the virus in 2020.
- **Public gatherings but no home visits** – Limit of 10 people for public gatherings. No visitors are allowed to your home, including student residences.
- **Hospitality, retail, fitness, libraries and community sport** – These all reopen but with specific density limits in place plus 1 person per 4sqm rule.

## Further information for Federation staff

### Taking time off to get vaccinated against COVID-19

The vaccination rollout is a key measure to preventing the spread of COVID-19. All staff are welcome to take time out of their working day to get vaccinated and we encourage you to do so once eligible.

To book a vaccination, follow the links at:

- In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'
- To check eligibility criteria for people aged between 16 and 40 go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

## **Federation COVID-19 hotline details**

If you have any questions or are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, please contact the COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300 (8:30am to 5:00pm).

After hours, if you return a positive COVID-19 test, please contact our emergency phone number 1800 333 732 so we can put in place cleaning and isolation measures.

## **Health and wellbeing**

Throughout the pandemic, Human Resources has offered a range of health and wellbeing supports including toolkits and online sessions to help you get through the challenges of lockdowns and working remotely.

The first stop for information is [COVID-19 support for staff](#). We strongly encourage you to also look at the [Health and wellbeing](#) page if you need some extra support or even just a mental break through the day. You can find videos of past Lunch and Learn sessions, advice on exercise, mindfulness, mental health, and resources for families with kids at home during lockdown.

## **Where to check COVID-19 public exposure sites in Victoria and Queensland**

The list of COVID-19 public exposure sites is expected to grow over the next few days as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive. We highly recommend that you check the full list of exposure sites each day. In Victoria, go to [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites) and in Queensland, go to [Contact tracing COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government](#).

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please speak to your manager for advice if you need to isolate for 14 days so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

This is really pleasing news and we hope the sign of a trend that will follow for metro Melbourne soon. As always will be guided by the government advice to keep our students, staff and our communities safe.

Stay safe and stay well.

**On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group**

