

Subject: Coronavirus Update - Victorian campuses to temporarily close tonight until Friday 4 June
Date: Thursday, 27 May 2021 4:29:00 PM



Coronavirus Update

Thursday 27 May 2021

Dear colleagues,

A short time ago, the Victorian Government announced a 7-day “circuit breaker” lockdown across the state of Victoria to stop the transmission of a “quick and contagious” variant of COVID-19, which emerged from hotel quarantine in South Australia.

As a result of the lockdown, higher education and TAFE in Victoria will move to remote learning for the 7-day lockdown period.

Federation University Australia’s Victorian campuses will temporarily close from tonight until 11:59pm Thursday 3 June.

The restrictions in place from 11:59pm tonight include:

- Face masks required whenever you leave your home – aside from lawful exemptions
- Five reasons to leave the house:
 - shopping for essential goods and services
 - two hours of exercise with one other person or your household
 - authorised work or permitted education
 - medical care and caregiving
 - to get a COVID-19 vaccination (vaccination eligibility has been extended to anyone 40 years or older in Victoria – details below)
- Five-kilometre limit for shopping and exercise (or nearest location)
- No visitors to your home and no public gatherings – however, you can make a social bubble with one other person
- Open – childcare and kinder, and student residences
- Closed – higher education and TAFE (remote learning only)

- Closed – primary and secondary school (remote learning with onsite supervision only for children of authorised workers or vulnerable students)
- Closed – libraries, sport and recreation facilities and community sport (indoors and outdoors).

Key advice to Federation staff

Working from home

- All staff must work from home. Staff currently on campus should return home as normal this evening and not return to campus until Friday 4 June.
- If your job cannot be performed from home, there is no need to take special leave. Please consider if there are any administrative or professional development tasks, such as your PRDP, compliance modules in ELMO, LinkedIn Learning etc. that you can catch up on during this time.
- Please consider the equipment that you'll need to work effectively from home. Many staff will have adequate equipment set up at home already to work effectively.
- No on-campus events or activities involving students can go ahead until Friday 4 June – pending government advice next week on restrictions being lifted.

Home schooling

- For those staff with school aged children we understand that remote learning is difficult, so if you need to take time out of your working day to support your children, you do not need to apply for any leave over this short lockdown period.

Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE

- Higher education and TAFE return to remote learning until Friday 4 June.
- Academic staff will work with their students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling.
- Students are being asked to check their course Moodle site for arrangements.
- TAFE students studying courses that are not in Moodle are being contacted directly by TAFE.

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates

- HDR candidates should return to working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator where necessary.

Placements

- The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible.

- Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.
- Other placements are not considered essential services and are not expected to continue during the lockdown period. However, if a placement can be undertaken online, you may work from home.

Facilities open and closed

- Childcare delivered at our Federation's Children's Centres, and FedLiving residences remain open.
- All office and classroom spaces will be closed tonight until Friday 4 June.
- Food outlets, libraries, fitness centres, community sport and swimming pools will be closed until Friday 4 June.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination eligibility has been extended to anyone 40 years or older in Victoria. You can [find booking details here](#).
- The university strongly encourages anyone eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination to book in as soon as possible. You do not need to take leave to get your vaccination.

Employee Assistance Program and support

We understand that after the past year, this lockdown may trigger strong emotions for some people.

If you need to speak to someone independently, we strongly encourage you to [contact the Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). EAP is open 24/7 and can be contacted via the link above or over the phone on 1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327) or 03 8681 2444. You can also access our [Mental health and wellbeing guide](#).

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

You must let us know if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, so we can put in place a swift response including appropriate leave arrangements, concentrated cleaning and to assist in contact tracing, if a case is confirmed.

- During business hours: call the COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300 (8:30am to 5:00pm).
- Outside business hours: call the emergency phone number 1800 333 732 for confirmed cases (positive test result). For a negative result, please call the COVID-19 hotline the next day during business hours.

Keeping up to date with restrictions

Restrictions change quickly as we've seen over the past year. Keep up-to-date via:

- Daily check of the following government websites for changes and alerts at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or www.covid19.qld.gov.au
- Download the **VicEmergency app** for the link on the home screen to Pandemic Advice for Victoria
- You can also follow health authorities on social media for regular updates including the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](#) and [Queensland Health](#)
- Read, listen and watch the news. Most are broadcasting government updates as they happen.

The [Acting Premier's statement is available online now](#) if you wish to read it – on this page you can also download the full detailed table of restrictions (also attached to this message).

The COVID-19 Transition Control Group will provide further updates as needed about the status of any further restrictions and the impact these may have on our operations.

The safety and wellbeing of our community are our priority and we appreciate your support.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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