

# TERTIARY EDUCATION SETTINGS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

4 JUNE 2021 – VERSION 9

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This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities.

The information in this document is current as of publication.

Tertiary education providers should continue to monitor information as it becomes available via the Department of Health (DH) website. Please refer to the latest information to ensure the most accurate advice.

## Can staff members and students attend training providers' premises?

### ➤ Metropolitan Melbourne

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, TAFEs, universities, Learn Locals and other training providers in metropolitan Melbourne must continue remote learning until 11:59pm Thursday 10 June. There continue to be some permitted on-site operations as outlined in the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) and students whose studies are listed may attend onsite for study and activities that cannot be done from home. If students can study from home, they must continue to study from home.

To the extent possible, TAFEs, universities and other training providers should continue to ensure that students have access to digital and remote learning classrooms and materials to enable learning from home.

All non-essential staff members are required to work from home during this period unless they are referenced on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#)

### ➤ Regional Victoria

TAFE, universities and training institutions in regional Victoria can reopen.

Students who reside in regional Victoria can attend classes, but should learn from home if they can. Students and staff who reside in metropolitan Melbourne and are

enrolled or work in a regional TAFE, university or training institution can only attend on site if their study is listed on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

## Can face-to-face learning occur for VCE/VCAL students?

### ➤ Metropolitan Melbourne

VCE/VCAL students in Year 11 and 12 and school-aged students undertaking the final year of a VCAL qualification in TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers and other training organisations can return to face-to-face learning from and including 4 June 2021.

### ➤ Regional Victoria

Students can participate in their VCE or VCAL classes, including VET studies, in TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers and other training organisations including where these are held in other schools. Schools should contact their RTOs to understand any changes to their current operating arrangements.

The following health and safety measures should be put in place to minimise risk associated with learning outside the school environment:

- Mixing of students from different educational facilities and schools should be minimised whenever practical.

- Physical distancing should be maintained whenever possible, particularly for classes that involve attendance by students from multiple institutions.

### **Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?**

#### **➤ Metropolitan Melbourne**

Face masks must be carried at all times and worn indoors and outdoors whenever you leave your home unless an exception applies. This includes when conducting training and/or assessment, if permitted in line with the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

#### **➤ Regional Victoria**

Face masks must be carried at all times and worn indoors except if at home, or if an exception applies. Face masks must be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained. This includes when conducting training and/or assessment.

### **What are the clinical health placement requirements?**

For the latest DH advice on clinical health placements, please see the information from DH here:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-covid-19-guidance-27-may-2021>

### **Can trainers/assessors attend aged care facilities to assess students?**

DH has advised that clinical placements in residential care facilities can continue, with controls in place as detailed in [updated guidance for Student Clinical Placements](#).

### **Can first aid training still occur?**

First aid training where required for COVID response is permitted in line with the [Authorised worker list](#).

### **Are civil construction apprenticeships included as an approved construction industry apprenticeship?**

Apprenticeships (including civil construction) can continue if the apprentice is employed at an Authorised provider in the construction sector.

Specific [construction sector guidance](#) is also available on the DH website.

### **Can staff members and students travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria for study or work?**

Students and staff who live in regional Victoria and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in metropolitan Melbourne will continue with arrangements applicable to metropolitan Melbourne including only being on on-site if listed on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

### **What are the arrangements for students and staff in Victorian border communities?**

Students and staff who live in regional Victoria and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in a bordering state will be able to attend on site if permitted by that State.

Students and staff who live in bordering states and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in regional Victoria can attend on site.

### USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-training-providers-apprentices-and-trainees>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/business-information/covid-19-business-information>

<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>

<https://www.asqa.gov.au/covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/mental-health-hygiene-and-wellbeing-tafe>