

**Subject:** Coronavirus Update  
**Date:** Wednesday, 9 June 2021 5:49:00 PM



## Coronavirus Update

Wednesday 9 June 2021

Dear colleagues,

We've had some really good news from the Victorian Government today for everyone waiting to hear if restrictions will be eased further.

Due to the low case numbers and all positive COVID cases recorded over the past fortnight being linked, restrictions will be eased further in Melbourne metropolitan areas and regional Victoria on Friday 11 June.

Details of the restriction changes are below. For Federation University and Federation TAFE this means:

- **Berwick Campus will reopen on Friday 11 June. Remote learning continues and if you can work from home, you should work from home. But if your role cannot be performed at home, you can return to campus this Friday.**

**The Department of Education and Training (DET) has now also confirmed that staff in higher education and TAFE are allowed to deliver the following activities on campus:**

- **Exams or assessments that cannot be performed online, and**
- **Service delivery for vulnerable students, where not practicable to provide remotely.**
- **Ballarat, Gippsland and Wimmera campuses remain open but if you can work or study from home, you should continue to work from home (50 per cent cap on workplace capacity).**
- **TAFE remains open for practical teaching activities. Other activities continue remotely. Staff who can work from home, should continue to work from home.**
- **Fed College remains open but staff who can work from home, should continue to work from home.**
- **Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by Victorian restrictions.**
- **Open – Children's Centres, FedLiving residences.**

- **Open with restrictions on numbers – libraries, food outlets and retail on campus, and health and fitness centres and pools in regional Victoria.**

If you are unsure about how the restrictions apply to your personal circumstances, please contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

## **New restriction settings in Victoria**

The following restrictions will be in place from 11:59pm Thursday 10 June to 11:59pm Thursday 17 June, with restrictions expected to ease further at the end of next week.

### **Metro Melbourne**

- The five reasons to leave your home no longer apply. However, a 25km limit on travel remains (instead of previous 10km limit) with exemptions only on attending permitted work and study, or for care giving or accessing the closest vaccination centre to your home.
- No visitors at home but 10 people are permitted for outdoor gatherings.
- Children return to face-to-face learning at primary and secondary schools.
- Masks will no longer be required outdoors but must be worn indoors.
- If you can work from home, you should work from home, but some office workers can return with a cap of 25 per cent.
- The following venues can reopen subject to specific density limits (see table of restrictions attached): restaurants and cafés reopen for seated service; libraries and community facilities; swimming pools and entertainment venues. Community sport can occur, but only for training.

### **Regional Victoria**

- Visitors to be allowed at home but with a limit of two adults per day plus their dependants, and outdoor gatherings increase to 20 people.
- If you can work from home, you should work from home but some office workers can return with a cap of 50 per cent workplace capacity.
- No limit on travel within regional Victoria. You can travel to Melbourne but you must follow the Melbourne restrictions, such as no visitors to anyone's home.
- Indoor sport, including gyms and pools, will also be able to reopen with careful limits on the number of people permitted. Restaurant and café capacity increases for seated service. Community sport back for all ages.

You can read the [statement from the Acting Premier](#) online and we have also attached the full table of restrictions to this message.

Find general advice about restrictions, public exposures sites, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) while Brisbane staff can go to [www.covid19.qld.gov.au](http://www.covid19.qld.gov.au). You can also follow health authorities on social media for regular updates including the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](#) and [Queensland Health](#)

## Keeping COVID safe if you are working on campus

- **Scan a QR code on arrival on campus. This is vital, if there is a positive case confirmed on campus when you have also been there, we can let you know as quickly as possible.** New QR code signage has been installed at the entry to all Federation campuses, so even if your manager knows you'll be there, you still must scan the code on the way in and when you use any communal area, including ordering coffee, dropping off a library book or using a classroom or shared space. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).
- **If you are sick, you must stay at home.** If you have COVID-19 symptoms even if very mild, you must get tested and isolate at home until you return a negative result.
- **Face masks must be worn indoors and remember to maintain a 1.5 metre distance between yourself and others.** While you don't need to wear a face mask outdoors at our campuses, you must wear it indoors and anytime you can't maintain 1.5m physical distancing outdoors.
- **Help with good hygiene and cleaning.** Use hand sanitiser stations and use the disinfectant wipes provided to clean equipment and surfaces that you use, including classrooms, offices, meeting rooms and communal areas such as staff kitchens. Facilities staff will conduct touch point and general cleaning throughout the day.
- **Meetings** – wherever possible, hold meetings online via Teams, even if the meeting involves people from outside of Federation.

## Employee Assistance Program and support

If you've found the past fortnight stressful, that's completely normal.

If you need to speak to someone independently, we strongly encourage you to contact the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). EAP is open 24/7. You can find further details of EAP and a vast range of health and wellbeing supports via ['Counselling and other support' on the Health and wellbeing web page](#).

## 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: COVID-19 hotline (03) 5122 6300 (8:30am to 5:00pm).
- Outside business hours: 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.

You can also use this link to [check the current public exposure sites](#) – if you have visited a public exposure site please follow the testing and isolation advice and contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline to advise if you've had a COVID-19 test and the result.

Thank you for everyone's cooperation with the changing restrictions and we look forward to more staff returning to campus once restrictions ease further.

Stay safe.

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

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