



Coronavirus Update

Thursday 12 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government announced yesterday that lockdown will be extended in Melbourne metropolitan areas for a further week, until 11:59pm Thursday 19 August, due to a number of cases of COVID-19 still circulating in the community. The full table of restrictions is attached.

We understand this will be very disappointing for staff and students in Melbourne and those connected to our Berwick Campus. We are hopeful that COVID-19 case numbers will fall during the next week due to the lockdown extension and that restrictions will be eased.

Below are the impacts for Federation's operations, with a focus on Berwick Campus.

Staff in regional Victoria and Brisbane should also refer to the Coronavirus Update sent Monday 9 August.

Berwick Campus – Melbourne metro area lockdown until Friday 20 August

- **Berwick Campus remains closed until Friday 20 August, pending government advice.**
- **Higher Education at Berwick remains online until Friday 20 August. However, limited practical activities will continue on campus this week in essential study areas such as clinical health.**
- **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.**
- **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. Some may be classified as carrying out authorised study or work under Victorian Government restrictions and will be contacted individually.

Brisbane Campus – SE QLD restrictions until 4:00pm Sunday 22 August

- Federation University's Brisbane Campus is open.
- Brisbane staff and students can resume work and study on campus. Check Moodle for normal timetable information.
- Staff in Queensland can find full details of restrictions at [COVID-19 update | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

Regional Victorian campuses – restrictions from Monday 9 August

- Ballarat, Gippsland and Horsham campuses are open.
- Practical learning activities in Higher Education and TAFE resumed 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 resumed 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 are open on campus but with restrictions in place.
- 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](#).
- Staff in regional Victoria can find full details of restrictions at [COVID Safe Settings in regional Victoria](#).

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.

Further information for Berwick Campus staff

Health and wellbeing support

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

We strongly encourage you to 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.

You can also find links to the Employee Assistance Program, which offers staff access to free, confidential counselling services 24/7. They can be contacted via the link above or over the phone on 1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327) or 03 8681 2444. HDR students who are also staff should refer to [counselling services](#) instead.

Federation University's on campus Health Centres are also open if you have any general health issues. Do not attend the centres if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (cold, flu, cough, fever) you should instead get tested and isolate until you return a negative result, and can phone for options to speak to a GP or nurse. Go to the [health services page](#) for information and contact details.

If you need practical advice and toolkits for working from home, visit [COVID-19 support for staff](#). If you need further advice, you can contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

Update your details in Employee Self Service

When the University and TAFE is required to close at short notice, the quickest way for us to contact you is via SMS. The mobile phone number in [Employee Self Service](#) is the number that the SMS is sent to, so we strongly encourage all staff to check if their number is up to date.

You can find instructions on updating your details via this [Knowledge Base article](#).

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

Please work with your 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.

Placements

The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if your placement allows. Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

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

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites has grown as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive.

We highly recommend that you regularly check the full list of exposure sites each day. In Victoria, go to 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.

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

Please let us know immediately if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 by calling our 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.

Find information on COVID-19 vaccinations

Vaccination is our way out of repeated lockdowns and we encourage staff to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. You can take time out of your working days to get vaccinated.

To book a vaccination at a state-run centre, follow the links at:

- In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'

To book at your GP or check the eligibility criteria go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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