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# Federation University Australia Guideline – student COVID-19 vaccination

*Version number: 2*

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## 1. Position on COVID-19 vaccination requirements for students

- 1.1 The University recognises that vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 1.2 In line with Commonwealth and State Government advice, it strongly encourages all students to have the full COVID-19 vaccination course as soon as possible unless medically contraindicated.
  - 1.3 In relation to the requirement of a University student to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the University follows the applicable Commonwealth and State Government advice and requirements.
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## 2. Student placements

- 2.1 For some professional placements which students are required to undertake as part of their course requirements, the Commonwealth or State Government may require that students undertaking those placements be vaccinated against COVID-19. Further, some employers and organisations where University students undertake professional placements will have mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements as a condition of students undertaking placements with those employers or organisations. Students will need to comply with such requirements in order to undertake the placement.
  - 2.2 To the extent possible, the University will make reasonable efforts to arrange professional placements for students who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 with organisations and providers who do not require students undertaking placements to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This is to ensure all students have a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the course requirements for graduation. Other options, such as deferral, may also be available. However, the University is not able to provide assurance that professional placements are or will be available at all or in sufficient numbers for students who are not vaccinated.
  - 2.3 The University notes that students may also have obligations in relation to COVID-19 vaccination under regulations, policies or guidance material of professional regulatory bodies.
  - 2.4 The following sections of the Guideline outline current Commonwealth and State Government requirements in relation to particular students and obligations to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and this will be updated as necessary in accordance with Commonwealth and State Government requirements.
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## 3. Health students

- 3.1 **Residential Aged Care students:** currently, the Commonwealth and Victorian State Government require that all residential aged care workers have received a minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by 17 September 2021 (or can provide evidence that they have

an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination by 1 October 2021) in order to work in a residential aged care facility. All staff who work in residential aged care facilities are required to be fully vaccinated by 15 November 2021. This includes students on placement at the residential aged care facility. Accordingly, any student who will undertake a placement in a residential aged care facility from 17 September 2021 is required to have at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination (or evidence of an appointment for the vaccine by 1 October 2021) to undertake the placement, unless a medical exemption applies.

- 3.2 The University notes that health students may have obligations in relation to COVID-19 vaccination in accordance with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) Position Statement dated 9 March 2021 on Registered health practitioners and students and COVID-19 vaccination.

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## 4. Education students

- 4.1 **Primary and secondary teaching students:** currently, the Victorian State Government require that all staff who work in schools have received a minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by 18 October 2021 (or be able to provide evidence that they have an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination within that week) in order to work in a school. All staff who work in schools are required to be fully vaccinated by 29 November 2021. This includes pre-service student teachers who will undertake a placement at a school. Accordingly, any student who will undertake a placement in a school from 18 October 2021 is required to have at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination (or evidence of an appointment for the vaccine within that week) to undertake the placement, unless a medical exemption applies.

**4.2 - Early childhood students:** currently, the Victorian State Government requires all staff who work in early childhood centres to have received a minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by 18 October 2021 (or be able to provide evidence that they have an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine within that week) in order to work in an early childhood centre. All staff who work in an early childhood centre are required to be fully vaccinated by 29 November 2021. We understand that this includes students who will undertake a placement at an early childhood centre. We have been advised that any student who will undertake a placement in an early childhood centre from 18 October 2021 is required to have at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination (or evidence of an appointment for the vaccine within that week) to undertake the placement, unless a medical exemption applies.

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## 5. Health and safety

- 5.1 The University has obligations to eliminate and reduce the risk to the health of its staff and students from COVID-19 in connection with the University's activities so far as is reasonably practicable. The University is constantly reviewing the safety measures it has in place to eliminate and reduce the risks to the health of its staff and students from COVID-19 in line with its COVIDSafe Plan and this Guideline may be updated or reissued as necessary.