



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 17 June 2021

Dear Student,

Good news today for Victorians, with COVID-19 restrictions easing once again and the border between regional Victoria and Melbourne being lifted.

There are still some differences in Victorian Government restrictions between regional and metropolitan areas, which we have outlined below, but to begin here is the key information for Federation students.

All Victorian campuses and Brisbane Campus are now open

However, in Victoria, the restrictions do require us to work or study from home if we can effectively do so.

- Study from home if you can but all activities requiring your presence on campus are permitted including:
 - Taking an exam or assessment that cannot be performed online
 - Service delivery for vulnerable students.
- Students can travel freely between Melbourne and regional areas to take part in approved on-campus activities, but Melbourne restrictions follow.
- TAFE remains open but non-practical activities continue remotely.

- Fed College remains open.

Face masks must be worn indoors at all campuses

While face masks are no longer required outdoors in Victoria (unless you cannot maintain 1.5m distance from others), you must wear a face mask indoors on campus. There are a small number of exemptions to wearing masks indoors. For instance, masks may be removed by teaching staff while delivering a class, but students must continue to each wear one, or if you are doing work that involves strenuous physical activity.

QR code scanning is now mandatory on campus

The Victorian Government has made QR code scanning on campus mandatory at all universities and TAFEs. 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, you must scan the code on the way in and when you use any communal areas, 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](#).

Keeping COVID safe on campus

- If you are sick, you must stay at home.
- Get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms even if very mild. Then you must isolate at home until you return a negative result. Speak with your [Student HQ](#) if you require [special consideration](#).
- Help with good hygiene and cleaning. Use hand sanitiser stations and use the disinfectant wipes provided to clean equipment and surfaces that you use.
- Wherever possible, hold group meetings or student collaborations online.

New restriction settings in Victoria

The following are the changed restrictions, which will be in place from 11.59 pm Thursday 17 June to 11.59 pm Thursday 24 June, with restrictions expected to ease further at the end of next week.

Metro Melbourne

- The metro border and 25km limit removed.
- Public gatherings of up to 20 people, plus visitors allowed at home – a maximum of 2 people per day plus their dependents.
- Gyms, indoor entertainment can reopen and increased caps for hospitality venues including cafes and restaurants.
- Masks no longer required outdoors – required everywhere indoors.

Regional Victoria

- Public gatherings to 50, plus visitors at home – up to 5 people per day plus their dependants.
- Restaurants and cafes open for up to 300 people for seated service (density limits apply).

You can read the [statement from the Acting Premier](#) online. Find general advice about restrictions, public exposures sites, COVID-19 testing and vaccinations at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au, while our Brisbane students can go to 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](#).

Support for students

We again remind you of the [student support services](#) available to you, including learning and academic support. We understand that after the past year this may trigger strong emotions for some of you and if you are feeling anxious or distressed, talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online. Get emergency contacts and learn how to make an appointment [here](#).

[Academic support services](#), critical at this point in the semester, continue to be available online.

If you experience mental health challenges outside of business hours, the

University has introduced a special crisis line operating 4.30 pm – 9.00 am AEST on weekdays, and with 24-hour availability on weekends and public holidays. To access this service within Australia, please call 1300 758 109. If you are outside Australia, SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a callback.

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 student supports, concentrated cleaning and to assist in contact tracing if a case is confirmed.

- During business hours: COVID-19 hotline (03) 5122 6300 (8.30 am - 5.00 pm).
- Outside business hours: If you are confirmed as having COVID-19 outside these hours, please call the emergency phone number 1800 333 732. To report a suspected case, or a negative result, please call the COVID-19 hotline the following day during business hours.

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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