



Coronavirus Update

Friday 25 June 2021

Dear colleagues,

We welcome news for our Victorian staff, the state government has further eased COVID-19 restrictions from today, with the recent Victorian outbreak now considered to be under control.

Details of the eased restrictions are summarised below and include removing the requirement to work and study from home. This supports our move to bring staff and students back to campus by semester two for higher education students and sooner for TAFE, where students are currently mid-semester.

As a university, we are a community. To give our on-campus students the engaging and vibrant experience they want and deserve, we need our staff and students to be working and studying on campus. While some staff do not have student-facing roles, your presence at the café, gym or eating lunch on the lawns adds to our sense of community, engagement and connection with each other. It also facilitates casual workplace conversations that can lead to improvement and innovation.

The 6-month pilot of hybrid 60/40 home and office working arrangements that Federation trialled in response to COVID-19 finishes on 9 July 2021. While we remain committed to being a flexible employer, we want to ensure that the student experience does not suffer as such it is vital that staff and students return to campus to provide high-quality face-to-face teaching and student services, and to meet our obligations in providing government-funded education.

Therefore, Federation University will be returning to the former working from home procedure that existed prior to COVID-19. Employees will be able to request to work from home for up to two days per week with Dean/Director agreement. The flexible work practices under our existing enterprise agreement are not affected and continue unchanged.

We understand the transition to campus may be challenging for some staff and welcomed by others. Deans and Directors will begin managing this process at an individual level with their staff members.

The eased restrictions announced by the Victorian Government are outlined below and in the attached table – and you can find more information about restrictions via coronavirus.vic.gov.au or covid19.qld.gov.au

- **Work from home requirement has been removed.** Office work – 75 per cent return, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm in **Metropolitan**

Melbourne and 1 person per 2sqm in **Regional Victoria**.

- **Study from home requirement removed for higher education and training.** Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm applies in **Metropolitan Melbourne**, except in areas used by students. In **Regional Victoria**, density quotient of 1 person per 2sqm applies, except in areas used by students.
- **Face masks must be worn indoors and carried at all times** – except at home or if an exception applies. They are recommended to be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria is unrestricted.
- Outdoor public gatherings of up to 50 people allowed, and up to 15 visitors to your home each day including dependents.
- Physical recreation and sport, including swimming pools will be allowed to have up to 300 people indoors and 1000 outdoors. Maximum group is 50 people.

Travel interstate over the school holidays

Some staff will have interstate travel booked over the school holidays and teaching break.

Due to the outbreak in NSW, there are changes to border restrictions across the country and all states require you to get a travel permit before arriving at the border or the airport. We strongly encourage you staff to check the following websites for advice before you travel, [Victorian Travel Permit System](#) and [QLD Travel Declaration](#), as well as the advice at your destination state.

QR code scanning is mandatory on campus

QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs in Victoria. New QR code signage has been installed at the entries to all Federation campuses, you must scan the code on the way in and when you use any communal areas. There are also paper records if the QR code does not work for you. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

If you have any questions or are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, please contact us via the numbers below.

- 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 find a vast range of health and wellbeing supports, and information about accessing the free, confidential Employee Assistance Program via ['Counselling and other support' on the Health and wellbeing web page](#)

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

