



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 2 September 2021

Dear Student,

The Victorian Government has announced some minor changes to lockdown restrictions from 11.59 pm Thursday 2 September – reopening of playgrounds with QR codes in place and allowing in-home childcare arrangements – but perhaps not the good news we had hoped for.

There is some hope though. An initial roadmap out of lockdown was announced yesterday, based on increased vaccination rates, as well as some better news for regional Victoria.

- **Regional Victoria** – lockdown may be eased in regional Victoria next week, with significant restrictions still in place. An announcement is expected early next week but until then lockdown continues.
- **Melbourne metropolitan areas** – Victoria is expected to reach 70+ per cent vaccination by 23 September, then restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne will begin to be eased. Until then, lockdown continues in metropolitan Melbourne for a further three weeks.

The reasons highlighted by government for these decisions are due to the highly infectious nature of the Delta strain of COVID-19 and the need to balance suppressing case numbers and hospitalisations and increasing vaccinations.

You can find more detailed information via the [Victorian Premier's statement online](#) or at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au.

The COVID-19 Transition Control Group will provide further advice when announcements are made.

Impact on Federation University and TAFE operations

There is no change to the advice provided previously regarding on-campus activities and operations.

- In accordance with lockdown restrictions, our campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland and the Wimmera will be closed until Thursday 23 September (pending further government announcements).
- Some practical activities for TAFE and higher education will continue on campus, in line with government restrictions, with a permit in place (details below). Students will be contacted directly by their supervisor if applicable to them.

Find information on COVID-19 vaccinations

Federation University recognises that vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic – and this is reflected in the roadmap out of lockdown announced by government.

We strongly encourage our staff and students to get the COVID-19 vaccination as the best way to protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities from the virus.

All higher education and TAFE students aged 16 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Find information about booking a vaccination [here](#).

Seeking an authorised work or higher education permit

Permit applications:

Higher education students should email WIL@federation.edu.au.

HDR students should email dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au.

TAFE students must have a permit to attend on-campus studies.

- Authorised apprentices will need to seek a permit from their employer to continue study on campus.
- The only non-apprentice group of students allowed onsite for practical delivery is Diploma of Nursing – email Lee Wheeler, Education Manager Health and Nursing Programs at l.wheeler@federation.edu.au.

- All other TAFE work placements must be reviewed by the General Manager, TAFE – email tafe.placements@federation.edu.au.

Find the application form at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit | Coronavirus Victoria](#).

Student support services are available

We know that many students are struggling with lockdown and we want to remind you that we are here to help if you need it.

The [Current students page](#) has links to a range of resources including counselling, academic support, personal support and resources to help you study online.

If you are feeling anxious or distressed, you can talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online. You can [make an appointment here](#). Federation also has a special crisis line operating in the evening, on weekends and public holidays; call 1300 758 109 (in Australia) and SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a call back (if overseas).

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** (8.30 am to 5 pm). 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.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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