

TERTIARY EDUCATION SETTINGS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

12 OCTOBER 2021 – VERSION 22

This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities. **This includes organisations located in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.**

The information in this document is current as of the date of publication.

Tertiary education providers should familiarise themselves with [Victoria's Roadmap](#), and continue to monitor information as it becomes available via the Department of Health (DH) website. Please refer to the latest information to ensure the most accurate advice.

Can staff members and students attend training providers' premises?

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, as at 8pm Thursday 5 August 2021 (metropolitan Melbourne) and as at 11:59pm Saturday 21 August 2021 (regional Victoria), all TAFEs, universities, Learn Locals and other training providers in Victoria must close and may only deliver remote learning. If students can study from home, they must continue to study from home.

While there have been some changes to restrictions in regional Victoria over the past weeks, this advice remains unchanged for regional Victoria and organisations must only deliver remote learning.

Essential staff and students whose work and/or studies are associated with permitted operations as detailed on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) may attend on-site for works, study and activities that cannot be done from home.

Permits for higher education and training staff and students must be certified by an employer or higher education and training institution. Download and complete a permit at [authorised provider and authorised worker permit](#).

To the extent possible, TAFEs, universities and other training providers should

continue to ensure that students have access to digital and remote learning classrooms and materials to enable learning from home.

All non-essential staff members are required to work from home during this period unless they are referenced on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

Movement between Restricted Areas* and the remainder of regional Victoria:

Students and staff who reside in a Restricted Area* and are enrolled or work in a TAFE, university or training institution in the remainder of regional Victoria can only attend on site if their study is listed on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) and carry a [permit](#).

Affected students and staff must travel directly to the training organisation and limit movement as much as possible while in regional Victoria. When in the remainder of regional Victoria, the restrictions from the Restricted Areas* will travel with the worker. For example, you must not attend a restaurant or café for dine-in service, you must only order takeaway. Regional businesses are required to check the ID of a customer or visitor to ensure they are using only permitted facilities.

Movement between Regional Victoria and a Restricted Area:

*As at 11:59pm, Friday 8 October 2021, the Restricted Areas of Victoria comprise metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, and Mildura Rural City Council.

Residents of regional Victoria can only travel to a Restricted Area* for limited reasons and must abide by all restrictions detailed in the [COVIDSafe Settings](#)

Required COVID-19 testing:

Childcare workers, early childhood workers and school workers moving between a Restricted Area* and regional Victoria are required to undertake twice-weekly COVID-19 testing. ECEC staff do not need to have symptoms to obtain a test. This includes:

- Staff who live in regional Victoria who work in a Restricted Area*
- Staff who live in a Restricted Area* who work in regional Victoria.

Staff do not need to isolate following their test and can attend work while waiting for their test result.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, if any staff present symptoms of COVID-19 they should not attend on site but get tested and isolate immediately.

Can face-to-face learning occur for VCE/VCAL/VETis students?

VCE/VCAL/VETis students who attend a TAFE, non-school senior secondary provider, training organisation or school must continue to learn from home unless they are on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) and carry a [permit](#).

The [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) has recently been updated to include some permissions for:

- mandatory work placement in Allied Health Assistance in Victorian Public Health Services and Residential Aged Care Facilities
- Student placements in relation to child protection
- students completing their VCE/VCAL at a non-school senior secondary provider
- secondary school students completing a final year VET subject.

Please regularly check the [list](#) for further updates.

What are the clinical placement requirements?

Training and assessment for health, aged, and disability care workers, including clinical placements, is permitted in line with the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

Can students still participate in first aid training where it is a core unit of their qualification?

Given the role that first aid has in maintaining and protecting human health, safety and wellbeing, first aid training is permitted in order to maintain operations listed on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

Who is required to have a COVID-19 vaccination?

In line with the [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination directions](#), all authorised workers will be required to have a first dose COVID-19 vaccine by 15 October 2021 to work onsite or be able to produce evidence of a vaccination booking within that week unless a medical exemption applies.

The [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) defines the authorised workers in higher education, TAFE, training and adult education allowed onsite. This includes staff and students who undertake a student placement in a work premise that is listed on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

The 15 October 2021 deadline will not apply to workers who already have existing requirements under Chief Health Officer directions – groups like construction, freight, healthcare, aged care and education will still have to comply with previous advice.

All authorised workers are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 26 November 2021 to work onsite unless a medical exemption applies. Staff will be required to show evidence of their vaccination status or medical exemption to their employer.

*As at 11:59pm, Friday 8 October 2021, the Restricted Areas of Victoria comprise metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, and Mildura Rural City Council.

This requirement is applicable to all workers in Victoria whose occupation is listed as an authorised worker, regardless of if you conduct this work in a Restricted Area* or regional Victoria.

Some industries may be permitted to return to onsite work sooner than the dates listed above, dependant on their location (i.e. Metropolitan Melbourne versus regional Victoria), the vaccination status of the broader population and that of the individual. Target dates for onsite return to work are detailed in [Victoria's Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan](#).

For confirmation of the execution of the Roadmap phases, please refer to announcements made on <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>.

How can someone show evidence of vaccination?

Evidence of a person's vaccination can include:

- their [COVID-19 digital certificate](#) which shows proof of only their COVID-19 vaccinations that they can add to a digital wallet
- their [immunisation history statement](#) which lists their COVID-19 vaccinations and all other vaccinations
- a letter from a General Practitioner.

For more information on proof of vaccinations, visit: [Services Australia](#)

Further general information can be found by visiting: [Information for workers required be vaccinated](#).

Are construction apprentices and trainers required to have at least their first COVID-19 vaccination in order to attend trade school post 23 September 2021?

The [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions \(No 3\)](#) applies to construction sites, which are defined as 'a work premises at which civil works, building or construction activities take place and nearby work premises in which work relating to the operation of the construction

site is undertaken.' The directions do not specify that vaccination is required to attend training off-site (i.e. at a training provider), therefore staff and students would not require vaccinations for such attendance.

The [Mandatory Vaccination Directions](#) define construction site workers as 'a person (including a volunteer) performing work at a construction site, whether or not employed or engaged as a contractor by the operator of the construction site or a third party.' As such, trade teachers/assessors were required to have their first vaccination by 23 September 2021 if delivering training on a construction site.

For further enquiries or support relating to apprenticeships, please email: apprenticeships.victoria@education.vic.gov.au

Can trainees attend on-site for practical assessments where they cannot be completed at home and the trainee was meant to finish at the end of the year?

Currently, only TEQSA-regulated course (i.e. delivered by universities) are permitted to conduct training for final-year higher education courses where there are no alternative options to complete their study by the end of the year.

At this point in time, only a very limited number of occupations undertaken by trainees are included in the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#). The relevant occupations and activities are listed in guidance on the provision of [face-to-face adult education](#).

Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?

Regardless of location, face masks must be worn indoors and outdoors whenever you leave your home unless an exception applies. This includes when conducting training and/or assessment, if permitted in line with the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

*As at 11:59pm, Friday 8 October 2021, the Restricted Areas of Victoria comprise metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, and Mildura Rural City Council.

What are the arrangements for students and staff in Victorian border communities?

Victorian Residents:

Students and staff who live in Victorian border communities and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in a bordering state will be able to attend on site if permitted by that State, and in accordance with any relevant travel permits.

NSW Residents:

Students from cross-border communities who reside in NSW but attend a Victorian TAFE, training organisation or university can study on-site if they abide by the conditions of the [Border Crossing Permit Directions](#). This currently includes obtaining a [border entry permit](#).

SA Residents:

If you live in a South Australian LGA within the cross-border area, you do not need to apply for a permit to enter Victoria, provided:

- you are not a diagnosed person or a close contact of a diagnosed person
- you are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- you have not been in an extreme risk zone or red zone outside of the cross-border area at any time after the relevant zone commencement time in the previous 14 days

To travel into Victoria without a permit, people who live in the cross-border community need to carry proof of address (such as a driver's licence).

Please refer to the [Information for cross-border communities](#) for an updated list of permitted LGAs as this information may have changed.

Please also visit the relevant State's government websites for information relating to current restrictions.

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-training-providers-apprentices-and-trainees>
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>
<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/business-information/covid-19-business-information>
<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>
<https://www.asqa.gov.au/covid-19>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/mental-health-hygiene-and-wellbeing-tafe>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-cross-border-communities>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-travel-permit-system>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qr-codes-and-digital-record-keeping-contact-tracing>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-permit>
<https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/border-permit/home>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202109/covid-19-mandatory-vaccination-directions-no-3.pdf>
<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/victorias-roadmap-delivering-national-plan>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions#education-and-training-faqs>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-workers-required-be-vaccinated>
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/what-types-proof-there-are/covid-19-digital-certificate-proof>
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/what-types-proof-there-are/immunisation-history-statement-proof>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202110/covid-19-mandatory-vaccination-%28workers%29-directions.pdf>