



## **Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia**

**Thursday 12 August 2021**

Dear Student,

The Victorian Government has announced today that lockdown will be extended in Melbourne metropolitan areas for a further week, until 11.59 pm Thursday 19 August, due to a number of cases of COVID-19 still circulating in the community.

We understand this will be very disappointing for students in Melbourne and those connected to our Berwick Campus. We are hopeful that COVID-19 case numbers will fall over the next week due to the extension and that restrictions will be eased.

Below are the impacts for Federation's operations, with a focus on Berwick Campus.

For students in regional Victoria and Brisbane, please also refer to the Coronavirus Update sent Monday 9 August.

### **Berwick Campus – Melbourne metro area lockdown until Friday 20 August**

- Berwick Campus remains closed until Friday 20 August, pending government advice.
- Higher Education at Berwick remains online until Friday 20 August. However, limited practical activities will continue on campus this week in essential study areas such as clinical health.
- Students will be contacted directly via email and/or Moodle with specific advice.

- Students who live in the Melbourne metropolitan area but study at a regional Victorian campus must study from home. Some may be classified as carrying out authorised study under Victorian Government restrictions and will be contacted individually.

## **Brisbane Campus – SE QLD restrictions until 4 pm Sunday 22 August**

- Federation University’s Brisbane Campus is open.
- Brisbane students can study on campus. Check Moodle for normal timetable information.
- Full details of restrictions can be found at [COVID-19 update | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

## **Regional Victorian campuses – restrictions from Monday 9 August**

- Ballarat, Gippsland and Horsham campuses are open.
- Practical learning activities in Higher Education and TAFE can be held on campus from Tuesday 10 August but non-practical activities continue online until restrictions are further eased. Students are welcome to visit campus if they need to.
- Fed College and Ballarat Tech School resumed on campus from Tuesday 10 August.
- Placements in industries such as healthcare and education continue onsite, with alternative arrangements including work from home for other placements.
- Libraries, fitness centres, hospitality and retail are open on campus but with restrictions in place.
- Students who live in the Melbourne metropolitan area but study at a regional Victorian campus must study from home, unless they are classified as carrying out authorised study, under Victorian Government restrictions.
- Full details of restrictions can be found at [COVID Safe Settings in regional Victoria](#).

Across all campuses, students must wear face masks at all times (aside from teaching, eating or drinking), must scan QR codes on arrival at campus, and maintain 1.5 metres physical distance wherever possible.

Please do not come to campus if you are unwell. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 (cold or flu symptoms, fever, loss of taste or smell) please get tested

and isolate until you receive a negative result.

## **Further information for Berwick Campus students**

### **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. This is not the start to Semester 2 that any of us had planned for and if you are struggling, please reach out for help.

The [current students page](#) has links to a range of resources including counselling, academic support, personal support and resources to help you study online – but we hope this will be a short lockdown so the impact on Semester 2 will be limited.

Federation University's on-campus health centres are also open if you have any general health issues. Do not attend the centres if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (cold, flu, cough, fever). You should instead get tested and isolate until you return a negative result, and can phone for options to speak to a GP or nurse. Go to the [health services page](#) for information and contact details.

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](#). If you experience mental health challenges outside of business hours, Federation has a special crisis line operating in the evening, on weekends and public holidays: call 1300 758 109 (in Australia) or SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a call back (if overseas).

### **Update your details in my Student Centre**

When the University and TAFE is required to close at short notice, the quickest way for us to contact you is via SMS. The mobile phone number in [my Student Centre](#) is the number that the SMS is sent to, so we strongly encourage all students to check if their number is up to date. You can find instructions on updating your details via this [Knowledge Base article](#).

### **Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE**

Please check your course Moodle site for arrangements for online learning and

rescheduled classes and check your emails regularly. There will be a very small number of practical activities allowed on campus but if you are involved in these, you will be contacted directly. If not, please avoid coming to campus.

## **Placements**

The University will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if your placement allows. Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

## **Student residences**

No visitors are allowed to student residences at this time, and outdoor public gatherings are also not allowed, in compliance with Victorian Government restrictions. If you need help accessing food or medical care, please contact FedLiving for support.

## **Home schooling**

Some of our students are also parents dealing with home schooling. We understand that helping your children with remote learning is difficult. Please speak to your School if you need assistance or an extension on any assignments while you juggle your studies and home schooling.

## **Where to check COVID-19 public exposure sites in Victoria and Queensland**

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites has grown as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive. We highly recommend that you check the full list of exposure sites each day. In Victoria, go to [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites) and in Queensland, go to [Contact tracing COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government](#).

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please advise your School if you need to isolate for 14 days so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

## **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.

### Find information on COVID-19 vaccinations

Vaccination is our way out of repeated lockdowns and we encourage students to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. To book a vaccination at a state-run centre, follow the links at:

- [‘Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19’](#) (in Victoria)
- [‘Protect yourself and others’](#) (in Queensland).

To book at your GP or check the eligibility criteria, go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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