

**From:** Comms  
**To:** FedUniStaff; FedUniAssociates  
**Subject:** Coronavirus Update  
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# Coronavirus Update

Thursday 2 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government has announced some minor changes to lockdown restrictions from 11:59pm 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](http://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).
- Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by the Victorian restrictions.
- In Victoria, some practical activities for TAFE and higher education will continue on campus, in line with government restrictions, with a permit in place (details below). Staff and students will be contacted directly by their supervisor if applicable to them.

## **Key advice to Federation staff**

### **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.

Everyone aged 16 and over are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

You can book a vaccination through a State Government run clinic or via your GP or pharmacist. For links to vaccination information in your state, go to:

- In Victoria '[Book your vaccine appointment](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'.

## **Working from home**

- All staff and students without an authorised work or higher education permit issued by the University must work from home. Please do not attend campus.
- For continuing and fixed term staff - If your job cannot be performed from home, there is no need to take special leave. Please consider if there are any administrative or professional development tasks that you can catch up on during this time.
- For casual and sessional staff - Managers and supervisors need to discuss options with casual and sessional employees to identify any duties that can be performed from home during the lockdown period. Managers and supervisors can seek further advice from their HR Business Partner. We understand that this is a difficult time for many in casual work and this has been recognised by government, with a number of options to seek income support. You can find information about Australian Government support at [Services Australia](#) if your ability to work has been adversely affected by government restrictions. You can

also find a range of employee support packages at [Financial support for businesses and workers | Coronavirus Victoria](#).

- If you are unsure about how the restrictions apply to your personal circumstances, please contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

### **Seeking an authorised work or higher education permit**

- Permit applications – staff – all eligible staff should contact Human Resources to obtain an authorised work permit via [hr.hotline@federation.edu.au](mailto:hr.hotline@federation.edu.au) or call 03 5327 6300.
- Permit applications – higher education students – email [WIL@federation.edu.au](mailto:WIL@federation.edu.au)
- Permit applications – HDR students – email [dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au](mailto:dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au)
- Permit applications – TAFE students – you 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](mailto:l.wheeler@federation.edu.au).
- All other TAFE work placements must be reviewed by the General Manager, TAFE – email [tafe.placements@federation.edu.au](mailto:tafe.placements@federation.edu.au).

All childcare centres and kinders across Victoria are closed, except to children that have one parent that is an authorised worker. Vulnerable children can still attend. An authorised work permit is required to access childcare.

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

### **Health and wellbeing support**

- We strongly encourage you to look at the [Health and wellbeing](#) page if you need some extra support or even just a mental break through the day. You can find videos of past Lunch and Learn sessions, advice on exercise, mindfulness, mental health, and resources for families with kids at home during lockdown.
- You can also find links to the Employee Assistance Program, which offers staff access to free, confidential counselling services 24/7. They can be contacted via the link above or over the phone on 1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327) or 03 8681 2444. HDR students who are also staff should refer to [counselling services](#) instead.

### **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** (8:30am to 5:00pm). 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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