



Coronavirus Update

Friday 9 July 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government has announced that eased COVID-19 restrictions apply from today. This includes changes to face mask restrictions, reduced density limits and COVID-19 restrictions are now consistent across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Details of the eased restrictions are summarised below. These support our move to bring staff and students back to campus, to bring back the welcoming community feel that we have built our reputation on, and to give our students the engaging, vibrant experience they want and deserve.

Eased restrictions

In welcome news, from today, the following eased restrictions now apply across Victoria.

Face mask rules have changed

We understand how uncomfortable it is to wear a mask in the office all day, so it's great that the main restriction change is the removal of face masks in the office and in classrooms.

The new rules are:

- **In all public settings** – face masks are still required indoors, but not required outdoors.

What this means on campus is if you are in a café, retail or library setting, or moving through public spaces, you need to wear a mask. If in a fitness centre, wear a mask as you move between equipment but you can remove the mask when exercising.

- **In an office, classroom or workshop/trade training setting** – a face mask is not required unless you cannot maintain a minimum 1.5m distance from others.

For instance, if you work in Student HQ, if you are serving a student or staff member then you both have to wear a mask, but if you are working in the office away from the front desk, a mask is not required. If you are in a workshop at TAFE, staff and students don't need to wear a mask but when moving through public spaces outside the workshop, put your mask back on.

Vaccination options

The vaccination rollout is a key measure in government plans to return to a 'normal' pre-COVID life. The options for who can get vaccinated have opened up substantially. The University encourages all staff and students to get vaccinated when eligible. All of our staff are welcome to take time out of their working day to get vaccinated and we encourage you to do so.

Booking a COVID-19 vaccination appointment – in Victoria and Queensland, anyone 40 years or older can book in for vaccination in a state-run clinic. Go to '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)' and this page links to information about the vaccines and the booking information. In Queensland, you can find this information at '[Protect yourself and others](#)'.

Further information – you can find further information on Australia's vaccine rollout and the eligibility criteria for people aged between 16 and 40 through the [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

Density limits

The restriction on the number of people allowed in a space is now the same in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. This becomes 1 person per 2sqm, no density limit in classrooms, and 75 per cent capacity in workplaces.

Find further information on eased restrictions

You can find more information for Victoria at coronavirus.vic.gov.au or for Queensland at covid19.qld.gov.au for the current restrictions in place.

QR code scanning is mandatory on campus

The eased restrictions are the result of what the government has called a "huge uptake" of QR code scanning across Victoria – so if there is a COVID-19 outbreak, you can be advised quickly if you are at risk.

QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs in Victoria and Queensland. You are required to 'scan in' as you enter all Federation campuses. There are also paper records available 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](#).

Travel interstate over the school holidays

Returning from holidays interstate has become more complex with travel permit requirements in place due to COVID-19 outbreaks in four states.

Make sure you know if you are returning from a hot spot – red zone or orange zone – by visiting [Victorian Travel Permit System](#) and [QLD Travel Declaration](#). There are isolation requirements of between 3 and 14 days from some destinations and the requirement to return a negative COVID-19 test.

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

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

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

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