



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 9 September 2021

Dear Student,

The Victorian Government has announced that lockdown restrictions will be lifted in regional Victoria from 11.59 pm on Thursday 9 September.

This is good news for many of our students but there are still significant restrictions in place until the end of September that restrict our on-campus activities and operations.

Our campuses in Ballarat, Gippsland and the Wimmera will reopen from Friday 10 September, but with limited on-campus activity. Learning will remain remote except for practicals and laboratory classes for certain groups of students. Please read the detailed advice below.

Berwick Campus remains closed until Thursday 23 September, pending government advice. Some practical activities for higher education will continue on campus, in line with government restrictions, with a permit in place. Students will be contacted directly by their supervisor if applicable to them.

Eased restrictions in regional Victoria and impact on operations

Higher education, TAFE and HDR studies continue online, aside from limited practical on-campus activities, aligned to the authorised worker list.

- Students will be contacted directly if applicable to them. HDR candidates should continue working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator.

- Authorised worker / student permits are required for students travelling from or to Melbourne metro and Shepparton areas for authorised work or study (permit application process below). Permits not required for students living and working or studying in regional Victoria (except for Greater Shepparton).
- Placements in regional Victoria for regional residents only depend on workplace arrangements for employers. All onsite placements involving Melbourne metropolitan area residents or businesses located in metro Melbourne are by permit only, aligned to the authorised worker list.

VCAL and Ballarat Tech School – resume on campus from Friday 10 September for Year 12s (and Year 11 students if studying a Year 12 subject).

Libraries, retail and hospitality – reopen but with limits in place.

Fitness centres, pools and community sport – closed, as only outdoor facilities can reopen.

Childcare – open for regional Victorian children.

Childcare workers and school teachers new COVID test requirements – any childcare workers and school teachers (or students in these placements) who travel from Melbourne metro areas to regional Victoria to work must get twice-weekly PCR tests, as well as authorised work permits.

Other restriction changes – removal of the five reasons for leaving your home, removal of the 5 km travel limit, 10 people are allowed to gather outdoors but no visitors are allowed to your home (aside from intimate partner and single person bubble) and face masks must be worn everywhere.

You can find full information on restrictions at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au. We highly recommend that you also check the full list of [Victorian exposure sites](#) regularly.

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.

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](#).

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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