

Subject: Coronavirus Update
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Coronavirus Update

Thursday 9 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government has announced that lockdown restrictions will be lifted in regional Victoria from 11:59pm on Thursday 9 September.

This is good news for many of our staff but there are still significant restrictions in place, until the end of September, which 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 and 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. Staff and students will be contacted directly by their supervisor if applicable to them.

Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by the Victorian restrictions.

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.**
 - Staff and 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 staff and students travelling from or to Melbourne metropolitan areas and Shepparton areas for authorised work or study (permit application process below). Permits not required for staff and 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 are by permit only, aligned to the authorised worker list.
- **25 per cent of regional Victorian office staff can return to regional campuses.** Deans and Directors will start discussions with professional, academic and general staff on who can return, with priority given to staff who cannot effectively perform their job from home or whose work is essential for supporting students on campus.
- **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, 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** include removal of the five reasons for leaving your home, removal of the 5km 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 indoors and outdoors, aside from your own home.

You can find full information on restrictions at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or www.covid19.qld.gov.au. We highly recommend that you also check the full list of Victorian exposure sites regularly at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites.

Key advice to Federation staff

Seeking an authorised work or higher education permit

Permit applications should be directed to the relevant contacts below:

- Staff – ALL eligible staff should contact Human Resources to obtain an authorised work permit via hr@federation.edu.au or call 03 5327 6300.
- Higher education – email WIL@federation.edu.au
- HDR students – email dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au
- 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.

- Diploma of Nursing students - 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 and further information at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit](#).

Health and wellbeing support

- Join us for the Staff Wellness Forum on Thursday 23 September at 12:30pm to take a well-earned break and learn more about how we can navigate the impact of the pandemic. [Register here](#).
- 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.

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.

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](#)'.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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