

Subject: Coronavirus Update
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Coronavirus Update

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Dear colleagues,

Tomorrow is an exciting day for many Victorians with the state to be reunited under one set of eased restrictions when we reach the exceptional milestone of 80 per cent of Victorians aged over 16 years fully vaccinated.

It also provides greater certainty around our plans for staff and students to return to working and learning on campus, which are detailed below.

You can find full details of changes to restrictions at [COVIDSafe Settings | Coronavirus Victoria](#) and in Queensland at [Roadmap to easing Restrictions | Queensland](#).

Return to campus

Our students need our support, and they need us on campus to provide it.

As announced at today's VC Staff Forum, from **Tuesday 4 January next year, we expect all staff to be working back on campus**, in line with the existing flexibility arrangements in the enterprise agreement.

Any staff involved in supporting the student experience will be expected to return to campus before January at the request of their Dean or Director.

There will be events and opportunities at all of our campuses next year for staff to catch up with colleagues in-person and reconnect face-to-face.

In preparation for our return to campus, a ventilation review will be undertaken across all campuses to look for opportunities to improve mechanical ventilation – and consider the impact of room occupancy – and the use of CO2 monitoring, air purifiers and fresh air intake for areas that require alternative options.

This is a transition period for all Victorians, and everyone will have different feelings about the state opening up. But we must remember our purpose – to transform lives and enhance communities. To best serve our communities and our students we need to return to working and learning on campus.

How we implement our return to campus

The restrictions change at 6:00pm Friday 29 October. Below are the practical impacts on our Victorian campus operations.

General operations:

- All our campuses will be open to fully vaccinated students and staff who have had at least one vaccination dose (staff must be fully vaccinated by 26 November to be allowed on campus)
- There are no density limits in teaching and learning spaces. This includes our university libraries, which will only be open to staff and students until the end of the year
- In office spaces (non-teaching and learning spaces) a density limit of one person per 2 sqm applies
- Face masks are no longer required outdoors but must be worn indoors
- Hospitality and fitness centres are required by the Victorian laws to check your vaccination status (aside from provision of take away food). Please be kind to staff as they get used to this new requirement.

Teaching and learning, student recruitment and retention:

- All practical activities including exams can be held on campus for fully vaccinated students
- All outstanding practical classes are being scheduled on-campus as soon as possible to ensure no students are disadvantaged or have their completion delayed
- Staff supporting these practical activities or involved in the student experience must be on campus at the direction of Deans and Directors
- **Academics, teaching, professional and general staff are not required to check the vaccination status of students**
- Students are not required to submit proof of vaccinations; however, security staff will conduct spot checks of student's Service Victoria app to ensure they have checked in via QR codes.
- Vital student recruitment and retention activities, including campus tours and marketing events, will be able to recommence with a COVIDSafe HIRAC in place and a requirement for visitors over 16 years of age to be fully vaccinated.

Further advice to staff

Five basic principles for the return to campus

1. If you feel unwell – don't come to campus. If you have symptoms similar to COVID-19 you must get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible and self-isolate until you receive a negative result.
2. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and others and download your vaccination certificate.
3. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs. Good record

keeping means if we there is a positive case on campus, we can contact anyone who has been in contact with them quickly.

4. You must comply with any directives regarding wearing a face mask, currently only required when indoors on campus.
5. Facilities are in place for all students, staff and visitors to frequently wash or sanitise their hands and clean communal spaces, with increased campus cleaning is in place.

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 contact tracing, cleaning and isolation measures.

Download your vaccine digital record for easy access

For any staff that are still unsure about accessing their own COVID-19 vaccination statement, you can download this via your MyGov account – it is easy to download to your PC or phone, to print or keep, as evidence of vaccination. If you do not have a MyGov account or are unsure, you can go to www.my.gov.au to login or set up an account.

Follow this link to [find out how to download your digital certificate](#) to the Service Victoria app used to check in to locations.

Queensland students can find the same information [here](#).

If you received your COVID-19 vaccination at your GP clinic and have trouble accessing MyGov, you can request a letter from your GP as evidence of vaccination.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

