



## Coronavirus Update

Friday 16 July 2021

Dear colleagues,

Late yesterday, the Victorian Government announced a “short, sharp” five-day lockdown across Victoria until 11:59pm Tuesday 20 July, due to new COVID-19 cases in Victoria related to the NSW outbreak.

**In accordance with lockdown restrictions, our campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland and the Wimmera will close until next Wednesday.**

**All staff will work from home. All classes will return to remote learning until Wednesday 21 July, based on government advice. HDR candidates should return to working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator where necessary.**

**Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by these Victorian restrictions.**

While this is just a short lockdown at this stage, we know this is not the situation that anyone wanted.

Once the restrictions begin to lift, we really look forward to returning to campus for semester two as planned.

The information below provides details on restrictions, operations, and the range of health and wellbeing resources on offer to help you through this time.

### **Restrictions in place until 11:59pm Tuesday 20 July**

Restrictions in place include:

- Face masks required whenever you leave your home – aside from lawful exemptions
- Five reasons to leave the house:
  - one person per household per day shopping for essential goods and services

- two hours of exercise with one other person or members of your household
  - authorised work or permitted education
  - medical care and caregiving
  - to get a COVID-19 vaccination (vaccination eligibility information below)
- Five-kilometre limit for shopping and exercise (or nearest location)
  - No visitors to your home and no public gatherings – however, you can make a social bubble with one other person
  - Open – childcare and kinder, and student residences
  - Closed – higher education and TAFE (remote learning only), primary and secondary school (remote learning with onsite supervision only for children of authorised workers or vulnerable students)
  - Closed – on campus hospitality and retail, libraries, sport and recreation facilities and community sport (indoors and outdoors), Print Centre.

We have attached a copy of the table of restrictions, which provide specific guidance on activities, and you can also find this information via the [Victorian Premier's statement online](#) or at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

## **Key advice to Federation staff**

### **Working from home**

- All staff must work from home. Please do not return to campus until Wednesday 21 July.
- 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, such as your PRDP, compliance modules in ELMO, LinkedIn Learning etc. that you can catch up on during this time.
- No on-campus events or activities involving students can go ahead until government advice is provided that restrictions are being lifted.
- If you are unsure about how the restrictions apply to your personal circumstances, please contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

### **Home schooling**

- For those staff with school aged children we understand that remote learning is difficult, so if you need to take time out of your working day to support your children, you do not need to apply for any leave over this short lockdown period.

### **Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE**

- Higher education and TAFE return to remote learning until Wednesday 21 July.

- Academic staff will work with their students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling.
- Students are being asked to check their course Moodle site for arrangements. TAFE students studying courses that are not in Moodle are being contacted directly by TAFE.
- HDR candidates should return to working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator where necessary.

### **Placements**

- The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if the placement allows.
- Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

### **New exposure sites in Victoria – check each day**

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites continues to grow as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive.

We highly recommend that you check the full list of Victorian exposure sites each day at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites) while this current COVID-19 outbreak is brought under control.

This is particularly important as many people will have travelled around Melbourne and Victoria during the semester break.

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please speak to your manager for advice if you need to isolate for 14 days so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

### **Health and wellbeing**

Throughout the pandemic, Human Resources has offered a range of health and wellbeing supports including toolkits and online sessions to help you get through the challenges of lockdowns and working remotely.

The first stop for information is [COVID-19 support for staff](#) which offers a range of toolkits, resources and links to counselling if you need it.

We strongly encourage you to also 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.

### **Important reminders and links to further information**

### **Employee Assistance Program and support**

We understand that there is a lot of fatigue in the Victorian community due to the recent lockdowns and if you need to speak to someone independently, there is help available. We strongly encourage you to [contact the Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). EAP is open 24/7 and 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. All staff can also access our [Mental health and wellbeing guide](#).

### **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.

### **QR code scanning is mandatory on campus**

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak affecting the university, we can contact you much more quickly if you have scanned a QR code on arrival at campus. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs in Victoria and Queensland. 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](#).

### **Find more information from government and health authorities here:**

- New face mask rules can be found here:  
[Face masks - when to wear a face mask | Coronavirus Victoria](#)
- Full listing of exposure sites can be found here:  
[Case alerts – public exposure sites | Coronavirus Victoria](#)
- To book a vaccination, follow the links at:  
In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'  
In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'  
To check eligibility criteria for people aged between 16 and 40 go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

We are hopeful that we can continue progressing our return to campus for semester two, with COVIDSafe measures in place, but as always will be guided by the government advice.

The safety and wellbeing of our community are our priority and we appreciate your support.

Stay safe.

**On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group**

