

TERTIARY EDUCATION SETTINGS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

25 OCTOBER 2021 – VERSION 23

This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities. **This includes organisations located in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.**

The information in this document is current as of the date of publication.

Tertiary education providers should familiarise themselves with [Victoria's Roadmap](#), and continue to monitor information as it becomes available via the Department of Health (DH) website. Please refer to the latest information to ensure the most accurate advice.

Can staff members and students attend training providers' premises?

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, as at 11:59pm Thursday 21 October 2021 all TAFEs, universities, Learn Locals and other training providers in Victoria may operate for the purposes of supporting students with hands-on, skills-based learning, or facilitating exams and assessments when it is not practicable to conduct them remotely.

Permits are no longer required for on-site attendance for the above-mentioned reasons.

For the time being, all other staff and students must continue to work and learn from home.

To the extent possible, TAFEs, universities and other training providers should continue to ensure that students have access to digital and remote learning classrooms and materials to enable learning from home.

Movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria:

Students and staff who reside in a metropolitan Melbourne and are enrolled or work in a TAFE, university or training institution in regional Victoria can only attend onsite if their study is listed on the [authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

Permits are no longer required for movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. However, affected students and staff must travel directly to the training organisation and limit movement as much as possible while in regional Victoria. When in regional Victoria, the restrictions from metropolitan Melbourne will travel with the worker.

Movement between regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne:

Residents of regional Victoria can only travel to metropolitan Melbourne for limited reasons as noted in the [Stay Safe Directions \(regional Victoria\)](#) and must abide by all restrictions detailed in the [COVIDSafe Settings](#).

Who is required to have a COVID-19 vaccination?

The Victorian Chief Health Officer (CHO) has determined that all workers defined as higher education workers in the [CHO Directions](#), in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, will be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This includes workers in higher education, TAFE, and training and adult education.

To continue working on-site at this point in time, these workers must provide evidence that:

- they had a first dose COVID-19 vaccine by 15 October 2021, or
- they have a booking to receive a first dose by 22 October 2021, or
- have a medical exception evidenced by an authorised medical practitioner.

From 26 November 2021, to work on-site, workers must be able to provide evidence to their employer that they have received a second dose and are fully vaccinated, unless a medical exception applies.

The vaccination requirements also apply to:

- apprentices, trainees or volunteers working on-site in accordance with the CHO Directions
- apprentices and trainees in employment and students in specific settings (work placements and at residential aged care facilities, healthcare facilities, construction sites and education facilities).

The 15 October 2021 deadline does not apply to workers who already have existing requirements under Chief Health Officer directions – groups like construction, freight, healthcare, aged care and education will still have to comply with previous advice.

The current [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions](#) do not apply to students, apprentices and trainees currently undertaking permitted onsite learning (unless they are in the specific settings outlined above). **However, once the state reaches 80 per cent fully vaccinated, all students are required to be fully vaccinated to attend onsite learning.**

How can someone show evidence of vaccination?

Evidence of a person's vaccination can include:

- their [COVID-19 digital certificate](#) which shows proof of only their COVID-19 vaccinations that they can add to a digital wallet

- their [immunisation history statement](#) which lists their COVID-19 vaccinations and all other vaccinations
- a letter from a General Practitioner.

There are no requirements to retain a copy of this evidence, however organisations must take all reasonable steps to assure themselves of the vaccination status of anyone attending on-site where required.

For more information on proof of vaccinations, visit: [Services Australia](#)

Further general information can be found by visiting: [Information for workers required be vaccinated.](#)

Do childcare workers still have to undertake a COVID-19 test?

Childcare workers, early childhood education and care (ECEC) workers and school workers moving between a metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria are [required to undertake twice-weekly COVID-19 testing](#). ECEC staff do not need to have symptoms to obtain a test. This includes:

- Staff who live in regional Victoria who work in metropolitan Melbourne
- Staff who live in metropolitan Melbourne who work in regional Victoria.

Staff do not need to isolate following their test and can attend work while waiting for their test result.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, if any staff present symptoms of COVID-19 they should not attend on site but get tested and isolate immediately.

What are the clinical placement requirements?

Training and assessment for health, aged, and disability care workers, including clinical placements, is permitted for students appropriately vaccinated.

Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?

Regardless of location, face masks must be worn indoors and outdoors whenever you leave your home unless an exception applies. This includes when conducting training and/or assessment.

What are the arrangements for students and staff in Victorian border communities?

Victorian Residents:

Students and staff who live in Victorian border communities and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in a bordering state will be able to attend on site if permitted by that State, and in accordance with any relevant travel permits.

NSW Residents:

Students from cross-border communities who reside in NSW but attend a Victorian TAFE, training organisation or university can study on-site if they abide by the conditions of the [Border Crossing Permit Directions](#). This currently includes obtaining a [border entry permit](#).

SA Residents:

If you live in a South Australian LGA within the cross-border area, you do not need to apply for a permit to enter Victoria, provided:

- you are not a diagnosed person or a close contact of a diagnosed person
- you are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- you have not been in an extreme risk zone or red zone outside of the cross-border area at any time after the relevant zone commencement time in the previous 14 days

To travel into Victoria without a permit, people who live in the cross-border community need to carry proof of address (such as a driver's licence).

Please refer to the [Information for cross-border communities](#) for an updated list of permitted LGAs as this information may have changed.

Please also visit the relevant State's government websites for information relating to current restrictions.

Are there resources available to display in my organisation to support the COVIDSafe reopening?

A variety of signs, posters and templates are available here:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/signs-posters-and-templates>

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorias-roadmap>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-workers-required-be-vaccinated>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-cross-border-communities>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-travel-permit-system>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qr-codes-and-digital-record-keeping-contact-tracing>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/mental-health-hygiene-and-wellbeing-tafe>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-training-providers-apprentices-and-trainees>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/education-and-training-sector-guidance#frequently-asked-questions>
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-ecec#required-covid-19-vaccinations-for-ecec-including-oshc-staff>
<https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/border-permit/home>
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/what-types-proof-there-are/covid-19-digital-certificate-proof>
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/what-types-proof-there-are/immunisation-history-statement-proof>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202110/Open-Premises-Directions-No.2.pdf>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202110/COVID-19%20Mandatory%20Vaccination%20%28Specified%20Facilities%29%20Directions%20%28No%2010%29.pdf>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202110/COVID%2019%20Mandatory%20Vaccination%20%28Workers%29%20Directions%20%28No%205%29.pdf>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202110/Stay%20Safe%20Directions%20%28regional%20Victoria%29%20%28No%2014%29.pdf>
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>
<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>
<https://www.asqa.gov.au/covid-19>
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>
<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/business-information/covid-19-business-information>

For further enquiries or support relating to apprenticeships, please email:
apprenticeships.victoria@education.vic.gov.au