

Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Wednesday 1 July 2020

Dear student,

Changes to Semester 2 timetables

As previously advised, our Schools are currently reviewing Semester Two delivery and carefully determining what can safely be delivered on campus. We are balancing the reintroduction of more on-campus teaching with the evolving requirements of Government health advice. We are carefully monitoring the actions being taken by the Victorian Government to control the current outbreaks in the State. We are also mindful of the requirements of those students who are unable to return to campus, to ensure that we can effectively cater to both groups wherever possible.

As this work progresses you may start to see changes to your timetable. We will confirm when these are largely complete, so you can view your revised timetable. Please be mindful that in these unprecedented times there may be ongoing revisions to the timetable; we will attempt to keep changes to a minimum and will advise those affected as they occur.

COVID-19 impact in Victoria

In the past week there has been a significant increase in the number of new cases of COVID-19 in metropolitan Melbourne, including a significant rise in community transmissions, with many cases still being investigated for their origin.

There is a concern that people have become complacent with some of the key measures designed to protect our community and in particular, physical distancing, good hand hygiene and putting limits on social engagements in your home.

This has prompted a call for all Victorians to be increasingly vigilant. With this in mind, we thought it timely to put out a broad reminder of our shared responsibilities as a university community.

Shared responsibilities

- **Practise physical distancing** – we will provide clear markers for 1.5 metre physical distancing and total room capacity and we all need to comply for our own safety.
- **Keeping workspaces and meeting rooms clean** – please make sure that if you are on campus that you clean up after yourself and our facilities staff will follow up with concentrated cleaning.
- **Protecting vulnerable students** – we will make adjustments for vulnerable students but we need advice from you if you are in one of the categories below.

Please let your School know if you are in one of the categories defined by Safe Work Australia as facing a high-risk from COVID-19. This includes people 65 years and older with one or more chronic medical condition, people 70 years and older, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical condition and people with compromised immune systems.

Our responsibilities to you

- **Leadership accountability** from our senior executive, through to Deans, Directors, and management, for decisions made about who should be attending our campuses.
 - **Developing cautious, methodical Transition to Campus plans** that comply with government directives and with the flexibility to adapt and adjust with government advice.
 - **Careful hazard identification and risk assessment** – your teaching and learning staff have the most thorough understanding of the activities in your School. We will ask them to work in consultation with Health and Safety Implementations teams, to make sure any hazards are identified.
 - **Ensuring that you have the technology and engagement to effectively study online.** This includes everything from IT support to targeted assistance for our academics and teaching staff, to work with an online mode of educational delivery.
 - **Concentrated campus cleaning** – including areas where we know students and staff have been, touch point cleaning and providing more facilities for hand sanitising.
 - **Protecting vulnerable students** if we know there any risks to your safety such as a pre-existing medical condition that could compromise your capacity to fight COVID-19.
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Your responsibilities to the university community

- **Do not come onto campus unless you are asked by your School to do so.**
If you are on campus for a one-off activity – this means an activity involving just yourself rather than a group of students, and for a short period of time. This might include a booking to use a Library learning space, picking up printing or dropping back an overdue library book.
- **Continue to study online if this is possible.**
- **Get tested for COVID-19 if you have any cold, flu or respiratory symptoms** and stay home until you get the test results back.

If you are approved to study on campus you must follow these rules:

1. Stay home if you are sick.
2. Complete the checklist provided by your School before you attend, which will be emailed to you directly.
3. Practise physical distancing. It is easy to slip into old ways of working closely together. This is unfortunately not the time to be complacent and we must all stick to the 1.5 metres physical distancing rule wherever possible.
4. Practise good hand hygiene. Wash your hands regularly and hand sanitise as you move around the campus.

We understand this is a serious message, but the safety of our university community has an impact on the safety of the broader communities in which we live.

This is an unprecedented public health situation in Australia and the shared actions we take now as individuals will have a collective impact on the health of everyone around us.

Thank you all for your efforts to date to keep our campuses safe and to continue your studies in demanding circumstances. We know that it has presented many challenges, which we will continue to overcome together.

We look forward to providing a further update next week on our transition to campus planning.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group