

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

15 JUNE 2021 – VERSION 10

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This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities.

The information in this document is current as of publication.

Tertiary education providers should 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?**

The Victorian Government announced today new arrangements for TAFES, universities and training providers from and including Friday 11 June.

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer all TAFES, universities and training providers across Victoria can open for essential on-site activity, noting that students who can study from home, should continue to study from home.

Essential on site activity refers to all learning, training and assessment activities, including research and placements, that cannot be reasonably completed remotely due to the nature of the activity (e.g. practical-based learning) or as a result of individual circumstances that limit the ability to effectively learn remotely (e.g. access to internet).

## **Can staff members and students move between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria?**

There will be no restriction of movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria for the purpose of work or education. Students and staff who live in regional Victoria and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in metropolitan Melbourne (or vice versa) can attend on-site.

## **Can face-to-face learning occur for VCE/VCAL/VETiS students?**

All students can participate in their VCE/VCAL/VETiS classes in TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers and other training organisations.

## **Can students from different schools mix when attending VCE/VCAL/VETiS training?**

Yes, however schools should contact their RTOs to understand any changes to their current operating arrangements.

The following health and safety measures should be put in place to minimise risk associated with learning outside the school environment:

- Mixing of students from different educational facilities and schools should be minimised whenever practical.
- Physical distancing should be maintained whenever possible, particularly for classes that involve attendance by students from multiple institutions.

## **Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?**

➤ **Metropolitan Melbourne:** face masks must be carried at all times and worn indoors and outdoors whenever you leave your home unless an exception applies.

- **Regional Victoria:** face masks must be carried at all times and worn indoors except if at home, or if an exception applies. Face masks must be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

For the purposes of communicating, teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can.

### **Do physical distancing and density quotients apply for on-site attendance?**

A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among students and staff on-site should be implemented, to the extent that is reasonably practicable. Density limits do not apply in learning and classrooms spaces used by students. Density limits of 1 person per 4 square metres apply to staff areas such as staff lunchrooms and areas accessed by the public, such as reception areas. For public areas (foyer/reception area), signage should be displayed to indicate the maximum number of members of the public that may be present in the space at a single time.

### **What are the clinical health placement requirements?**

For the latest DH advice on clinical health placements, please see the information from DH here:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-covid-19-guidance>

### **Can trainers/assessors attend aged care facilities to assess students?**

DH has advised that clinical placements in residential care facilities can continue, with controls in place as detailed in:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-covid-19-guidance>

### **Is Electronic Record Keeping for onsite attendance required?**

From 11 June, all workplaces including TAFE, university and training provider settings, must use the Victorian Government QR Code Service.

An enforcement amnesty is in place until 11.59pm on 24 June for businesses who

have not previously been mandated to use the Victorian Government QR Code Service.

To register your organisation for a QR Code, click [here](#).

All staff, contractors, visitors and students must use the Service Vic app to check in to all venues and facilities within the campus.

Additionally, venues must make reasonable efforts to provide an iPad or other device for people who do not have access to a device, or use alternative record keeping system (such as pen and paper) when it is not practicable for a person to record their attendance using QR codes, or where there is a technical access issue with QR codes.

To find out more about the Victorian Government QR Code service go to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qr-codes-and-digital-record-keeping-contact-tracing>.

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

Students and staff who live in regional Victoria 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.

Students and staff who live in bordering states and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in Victoria can attend on site.

### USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-training-providers-apprentices-and-trainees>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/business-information/covid-19-business-information>

<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>

<https://www.asqa.gov.au/covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/mental-health-hygiene-and-wellbeing-tafe>