

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

28 JULY 2021 – VERSION 15

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 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?

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, TAFEs, universities, Learn Locals and other training providers in Victoria can open from Wednesday 28 July 2021. However, it is encouraged that students continue to study from home if they can.

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 if they can.

Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?

Face masks must be worn both indoors and outdoors whenever you leave your home unless an exception applies. This includes when conducting training and/or assessment.

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

Density limits of 1 person per 4 square metres apply to all areas on site, except for learning spaces used exclusively by students, for example lecture halls.

A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among students and staff on-site should be implemented, to the extent that is reasonably practicable.

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.

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

Students participating in VCE/VCAL/VETiS classes at TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers and other training organisations can attend their studies where these are held at TAFEs, RTOs or other schools.

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.
- Face masks and hand sanitiser should be used wherever possible, and students and staff should check in via the Service Victoria app where applicable.

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 and SA Residents:

If you live in a NSW or South Australian Local Government Area 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 Local Government Areas, as this information has recently changed.

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

Is Electronic Record Keeping for onsite attendance still required?

All workplaces including TAFE, university and training provider settings, must 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.

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>

<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>.