

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

19 AUGUST 2021 – VERSION 18

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?

Metropolitan Melbourne:

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, as at 8pm Thursday 5 August 2021 all TAFEs, universities, Learn Locals and other training providers in Victoria must close and may only deliver remote learning. If students can study from home, they must continue to study from home.

Essential staff and students whose work and/or studies are associated with permitted operations as detailed on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) may attend on-site for works, study and activities that cannot be done from home,

Permits for higher education and training staff and students must be certified by an employer or higher education and training institution. Download and complete a permit at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit](#).

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.

All non-essential staff members are required to work from home during this period unless they are referenced on the

[Authorised provider and authorised worker list.](#)

Regional Victoria:

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, as at 11:59pm Monday 9 August 2021 all TAFE, universities, Learn Locals and training providers located in regional Victoria can reopen. However, students should continue to study from home where possible.

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.

Movement between Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria:

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

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 in metropolitan Melbourne will travel with the worker. For example, you must not attend a restaurant or café for dine-in service, you must only order takeaway. Regional businesses are

required to check the ID of a customer or visitor to ensure they are using only permitted facilities.

Movement between Regional Victoria and Metropolitan Melbourne:

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

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

VCE/VCAL/VETiS students who are located in metropolitan Melbourne and attend a TAFE, non-school senior secondary provider, training organisation or school in metropolitan Melbourne must continue to learn from home unless they are on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

VCE/VCAL/VETiS students who are located in metropolitan Melbourne but who attend a regionally located TAFE or training organisation must continue to learn from home unless they are on the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#) and carry a [permit](#).

VCE/VCAL/VETiS students who are regionally located and who attend a regionally located TAFE, non-school senior secondary provider, training organisation, or classes that are held in other schools can continue to attend on-site. Schools should contact their RTOs for information about changes to their current operating arrangements.

What are the clinical placement requirements?

Training and assessment for health, aged, and disability care workers, including clinical placements, is permitted in line with the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

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, if permitted in line with the [Authorised provider and authorised worker list](#).

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 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](#) and ensure their staff, contractors, visitors and students check in to all venues and facilities within the campus using the Service Vic app.

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>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-permit>

<https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/border-permit/home>