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How the COVID Roadmap impacts Federation University

Friday 8 October 2021

Dear Student,

As vaccination rates increase across the country, the federal and state governments have set out a national plan and state roadmaps to end lockdowns, gradually ease restrictions and shift to living safely with COVID-19 in the community.

Below is information about:

- how the Victorian Government roadmap out of lockdowns will impact University and TAFE operations
- advice about end-of-year events
- information regarding vaccinations.

Victoria's Roadmap – Delivering the National Plan

Meeting vaccination targets are the key milestones in <u>Victoria's Roadmap</u> – <u>Delivering the National Plan</u>, which aligns closely with the Federal Government's four-phase <u>National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response</u>.

Outlined below are the vaccination milestones in the Victorian Roadmap and what is expected to change at Federation University and Federation TAFE as the state meets these milestones.

We are currently in Phase A, with the target of 80 per cent of Victorians aged 16+ having had their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine achieved on 28 September.

Phase A – 26 September 2021 (milestone met 28 September)

Students:

 In all of Victoria – only students performing "authorised study" are permitted to travel to campus (and only for the authorised activities). All others must study from home. Examinations and assessments that are permitted under the <u>APAW list</u> can proceed. These students will be contacted directly about exam arrangements.

Staff:

- In Melbourne and regional areas under lockdown only those workers performing "authorised work" are permitted to travel to work. All others must work from home.
- In regional areas not under lockdown work from home if you can. In offices, up to 25% of staff may return to work on campus with a maximum density of 1 person per 4 sqm (DQ4).

Phase B – 26 October 2021

70 per cent fully vaccinated for Victorians aged 16+

Students

• All students must learn from home except for hands-on, skills-based learning which can take place on campus. Exams can proceed if permitted under the APAW list.

Staff

• No change from Phase A.

Phase C – 5 November 2021 80 per cent fully vaccinated for Victorians aged 16+

Students:

- All areas <u>not</u> under local lockdown learn from home if you can. Hands-on, skills-based learning can take place on campus <u>but only for fully</u>
 <u>vaccinated participants</u>. Density quotient of 1 person per 4sqm (DQ4) applies.
- All areas under lockdown must comply with specific lockdown rules.

Staff:

- All areas <u>not</u> under local lockdown fully vaccinated staff can return to work. Density quotient of 1 person per 2sqm (DQ2) applies.
- All areas under lockdown must comply with specific lockdown rules.

Phase D – 18 November 2021

80 per cent fully vaccinated for Victorians aged 12+

Students and staff:

• "Live with COVID-19" phase. Public health management of COVID-19 consistent with influenza or other infectious diseases.

The aim of the roadmap and national plan

The aim for the roadmap is to accept some level of COVID-19 infection in the community, with the impact buffered by the strong protection that high levels of vaccination provide, while also keeping some restrictions in place.

It will mean more people can gather safely together at Christmas. It will mean that we can also return to campus in a meaningful way in 2022. With the reopening of international borders in November, we can bring more Australians home and look at whether we can begin to welcome international students once again, with revised quarantine arrangements in place, currently being worked on by governments around Australia.

We have attached the table that further outlines the <u>Victorian Roadmap</u> and you can find links to online resources above.

Virtual events

Federation's COVID-19 Transition Control Group (TCG) and Vice-Chancellor's Senior Team (VCST) have looked closely at what can be allowed, but unfortunately under the current COVID restrictions, face-to-face events are not possible this year. Events may be held in a virtual environment in 2021, and we hope to announce the return of face-to-face events early in 2022.

Vaccination

The TCG is in regular discussion with the Department of Education and Training in relation to mandatory vaccination requirements for the higher education sector. We will provide further updates for staff and students on this.

We strongly encourage staff and students to get the COVID-19 vaccination as the best way to protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities from the virus. You can book a vaccination through a state government run clinic or via your GP or pharmacist. For links to vaccination information visit:

- In Victoria 'Book your vaccine appointment'
- In Queensland 'Protect yourself and others'

Thank you for taking the time to review and understand how the roadmap will impact you, your fellow students and our staff. We look forward to seeing you on campus again soon.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group





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