

## Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Monday 22 June 2020

Dear student,

I'm pleased to update you on our progress as we continue planning for our transition to on-campus learning.

We have introduced a COVID-19 Transition Control Group, working with leaders in our Schools and Federation TAFE, to ensure that our path forward to on-campus operations is safe, and in line with government health and safety requirements.

The following update provides important information on our staged transition to on-campus teaching. We must reiterate though that the following government advice continues to apply: **if you can work from home – you must work from home. This includes studying online.** This significantly reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19.

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### On campus activities for the remainder of Semester 1

A number of students in the health, education and science disciplines and a number of research students have been informed directly that they are approved to attend campus for specific practical, laboratory and research work.

In TAFE, students in Federation College and the Ballarat Tech School are returning this fortnight, in line with all primary and secondary school students going back to school. Our prisons programs at Langi Kal Kal and Hopkins Correctional Centre have also resumed.

Limited face-to-face teaching has continued in TAFE since late April for courses

that are critical to local industries and employment including plumbing, electrical, carpentry, automotive, bakery training, cookery, engineering and construction.

There are only a small number of students expected to attend campus for activities at the end of Semester 1. If you are one of those students, you will be informed directly by your School or TAFE.

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## **Planning for Semester 2**

Higher Education Schools are now in the process of detailed planning for the re-introduction of limited on campus Teaching in Semester 2. It is important to note that teaching will still remain predominantly online, but over the course of the semester we will be introducing more on-campus teaching where appropriate. We understand that our students need to have more opportunities for face to face interaction with teaching staff and with other students. In developing our plans we are mindful of the need to carefully balance the need to reintroduce more on-campus teaching with the requirements of those students who are unable to return to campus, and to ensure that we effectively cater to both groups wherever possible. Higher Degree Research students will also be invited to return to on campus activities where their research depends upon the use of specialised research facilities.

As plans for Semester 2 are finalised, they will form part of our ongoing updates on how we progressively transition students and staff in Semester 2.

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## **Protecting your health on campus**

Federation has been closely following advice of government authorities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and communities.

We are asking all students to keep in mind the following basic principles to keep our campus environment safe.

- **If you feel unwell, you must stay home. Don't come onto campus.** If you have any cold or flu symptoms, you must also get the free test for COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- **Physical distancing measures** will be applied across the university.
- Facilities will be in place for all students, staff and visitors to **frequently wash and/or sanitise their hands.**
- **Cleaning on campus will be significantly increased** and all common, high-touch surfaces will be regularly wiped down by a team of specialised daytime cleaners.

Best regards,

Professor Helen Bartlett  
Vice-Chancellor and President  
Federation University Australia



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