



Coronavirus Update

Tuesday 3 August

Dear colleagues,

Yesterday the Queensland Government announced the extension of lockdown for South East Queensland due to an “escalating” outbreak of COVID-19 in the community.

The lockdown extends until 4:00pm Sunday 8 August, impacting the areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay, Redlands, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Noosa, Somerset, Lockyer Valley and Scenic Rim.

Below are the impacts for Federation’s operations in Brisbane and key advice to staff in QLD.

In compliance with the QLD government restrictions, Federation University’s Brisbane Campus is temporarily closed until Monday 9 August, pending government advice.

All Brisbane classes will temporarily move to online delivery and students will be asked to check Moodle and emails for updates.

In Victoria, our campuses are open but with restricted activity including: only practical teaching activities being held on campus; teaching staff and support staff allowed to work on campus; but a 25 per cent cap is in place for office workers.

Restrictions in South East Queensland and across Queensland

Restrictions are tighter in the 11 LGAs mentioned above that make up South East Queensland, these include:

- Five reasons to leave your home: obtaining essential goods and services (including healthcare), attending essential work only; exercising within 10km of your home; assisting a vulnerable person or family member; and obtaining a COVID-19 test or vaccination
- No visitors to your home aside from caregiving

- Face masks must be worn at all times when outside of your home, aside from strenuous exercise.
- Schools, universities and TAFE move to online learning.
- Non-essential businesses closed including hospitality (except for take-away and home deliveries), entertainment and community venues, gyms, personal care and places of worship.

Restrictions are in place for the rest of Queensland, but these primarily relate to density limits in different public environments.

Staff in Queensland can find full details of restrictions at [Roadmap to easing Restrictions | Queensland Government \(covid19.qld.gov.au\)](#) and find further information at www.covid19.qld.gov.au.

Key information for Brisbane staff

Working from home

- All staff must work from home. Please do not return to campus until Monday 9 August, pending government advice.
- If your job cannot be performed from home, there is no need to take special leave. Please consider if there are any administrative or professional development tasks, such as your PRDP, compliance modules in ELMO, LinkedIn Learning etc. that you can catch up on during this time.
- No on-campus events or activities involving students can go ahead until government advice is provided that restrictions are being lifted.
- If you are unsure about how the restrictions apply to your personal circumstances, please contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

Home schooling

- For those staff with school aged children, we understand that remote learning is difficult, so if you need to take time out of your working day to support your children, you do not need to apply for any leave over this short lockdown period.

Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE

- Higher education and TAFE return to remote learning until Monday 9 August.
- Academic staff will work with their students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling. Students are being asked to check their course Moodle site for arrangements.

Placements

- The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if your placement

allows. Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

New exposure sites in Queensland – check each day

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites is expected to continue to grow over the next few days as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive.

We highly recommend that you check the full list of QLD exposure sites each day at [Contact tracing COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government](#) while this current COVID-19 outbreak is brought under control.

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please speak to your manager for advice if you need to isolate so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

Important reminders and links to further information

Health and wellbeing

Throughout the pandemic, Human Resources has offered a range of health and wellbeing supports including toolkits and online sessions to help you get through the challenges of lockdowns and working remotely.

The first stop for information is [COVID-19 support for staff](#). We strongly encourage you to also look at the [Health and wellbeing](#) page if you need some extra support or even just a mental break through the day. You can find videos of past Lunch and Learn sessions, advice on exercise, mindfulness, mental health, and resources for families with kids at home during lockdown.

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

Please let us know immediately if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 by calling our hotline on **(03) 5122 6300** (8:30am to 5:00pm). After hours, if you return a positive COVID-19 test, please contact our emergency phone number 1800 333 732 so we can put in place cleaning and isolation measures.

QR code scanning is mandatory on campus

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak affecting the university, we can contact you much more quickly if you have scanned a QR code on arrival at campus. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs in Victoria and Queensland. There are also paper records available if the QR code does not work for you. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).

Find advice on COVID-19 vaccination

To book a vaccination, follow the links at:

In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'

In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'

To check eligibility criteria for people aged between 16 and 40 go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

We are hopeful that the lockdown in QLD is quick and effective and we can return to campus for semester two, with COVIDSafe measures in place, but as always will be guided by the government advice.

The safety and wellbeing of our community are our priority and we appreciate your support.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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