



# Coronavirus Update

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

At 7:00pm last night, the Victorian Government announced a snap 7-day lockdown for the Latrobe Valley due to a new COVID-19 outbreak in the area.

The lockdown means that the City of Latrobe is under metropolitan Melbourne lockdown restrictions (excluding curfew) until 11:59pm Monday 4 October.

For Federation University, our operations are as follows:

- **Berwick and Gippsland campuses are closed in line with lockdown restrictions, aside from limited authorised activity for staff and students with an approved work or study permit (staff and students will be contacted directly if required on campus).**
- **Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by the Victorian restrictions. However, the Queensland Government has reintroduced the requirement in Brisbane and Moreton Bay (and residents of those areas) to wear face masks indoors (aside from working alone in your office or a meeting room) and outdoors when you cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from others. Find information on [face mask rules here](#).**
- Ballarat and Wimmera campuses are open for up to 25 per cent of staff and approved student activity. This means there is limited on-campus activity and learning will remain remote except for practicals and laboratory classes for certain groups of students in accordance with the [Victorian Government COVIDSafe Settings](#). Campus facilities and services are open but with density limits in place.

You can find more detailed information on restrictions at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) and [www.covid19.qld.gov.au](http://www.covid19.qld.gov.au).

**Key advice for Federation staff**

## **Collecting computers and equipment to work from home**

We hope our Gippsland staff have what they need to work effectively from home during the 7-day lockdown. If not, you can travel to campus to pick up equipment. Speak to your manager/supervisor to get approval from your Dean or Director to visit campus.

When you visit campus to collect your things, contact Gippsland Campus Security (extension 26662 or call 5122 6662) to confirm when you are visiting campus and to gain access to buildings if required. Please bring your staff ID, always scan a QR code as you arrive at campus and return home as soon as you have your equipment.

## **Seeking an authorised work or higher education permit**

To attend the Berwick and Gippsland campuses you will now need a permit. The permit can also be used by staff in areas under lockdown restrictions to seek childcare (childcare centres and kinders in lockdown areas are closed, except to children that have one parent that is an authorised worker and vulnerable children).

To apply, find the application form and information on limited authorised worker categories at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit | Coronavirus Victoria](#).

Staff and students should then email their application to the appropriate contact below and cannot attend campus until the permit is approved.

- Staff permits – email [hr@federation.edu.au](mailto:hr@federation.edu.au) or call 03 5327 6300.
- Higher education student permits – email [WIL@federation.edu.au](mailto:WIL@federation.edu.au)
- HDR student permits – email [dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au](mailto:dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au)
- TAFE students including those attending regional campuses but residing in lockdown areas:
  - Authorised apprentices will need to seek a permit from their employer to continue study on campus.
  - The only non-apprentice group of students allowed onsite for practical delivery is Diploma of Nursing. Email Lee Wheeler, Education Manager Health and Nursing Programs at [L.wheeler@federation.edu.au](mailto:L.wheeler@federation.edu.au).
  - All other TAFE work placements must be reviewed by the General Manager, TAFE – email [tafe.placements@federation.edu.au](mailto:tafe.placements@federation.edu.au).

## **What to do if you have COVID-19 or have visited an exposure site**

Please let us know immediately by calling the Federation COVID-19 hotline if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 or have visited an exposure site.

- **During business hours call 0351226300 (from 8:30am to 5:00pm).**
- **After hours, call our emergency number 1800333732 if you test**

**positive. If you test negative, leave a message on the hotline number.**

If a student tells you that they are self-isolating or have had a COVID-19 test, please get them to call the hotline immediately.

Details of staff and students who call the hotline will be kept confidential and will only be shared with those directly involved in our COVID-19 response.

### **Check public exposure sites daily**

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites is growing as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive. We highly recommend that you check the list of Victorian exposure sites each day at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites). Please note that exposure sites are listed by suburb name rather than region.

### **COVID-19 vaccinations**

Federation University recognises that vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can book a vaccination through a State Government run clinic or via your GP or pharmacist. For vaccination information in your state, go to:

- In Victoria '[Book your vaccine appointment](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'.

We also encourage you to complete the brief anonymous [Federation Vaccination Survey](#) by Monday 4 October 2021. The information collected will help to better understand how staff and students feel about COVID-19 vaccinations and inform the way in which the University will approach vaccinations.

### **Health and wellbeing support**

We strongly encourage you to 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.

You can also find links to the Employee Assistance Program, which offers staff access to free, confidential counselling services 24/7. They can be contacted via the link above or over the phone on 1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327) or 03 8681 2444. HDR students who are also staff should refer to [counselling services](#) instead.

Stay safe and stay well.

**On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group**



