

From: [Comms](#)
To: [FedUniAssociates](#); [FedUniStaff](#)
Subject: Coronavirus Update
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Coronavirus Update

Thursday 14 July, 2022

Dear colleagues,

In Victoria, the pandemic orders have recently been extended. In addition to the mandatory orders, the state government has issued public health recommendations which are relevant to life on campus. More information is provided below for staff. You can find detailed information at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/how-we-work-current-restrictions

Federation University and Federation TAFE leadership and line managers should continue to work with staff on managing risks in accordance with the university's and local [COVIDSafe Plans](#), while ensuring that the on-campus experience for our students and extended community is not comprised.

Face masks

Mask wearing in indoor and crowded settings is strongly recommended to protect yourself and the most vulnerable – but there is not a requirement to wear a face mask, aside from in the following settings: visiting an on-campus medical centre, for healthcare practicals, care facilities, rideshare/taxis and custodial settings.

For staff or students, if you wish to wear a mask indoors you are encouraged to do so.

There may be other specific situations at the university where a local risk assessment finds that wearing face masks is required to protect all involved in the activity (e.g. some practical activities where distancing is not possible).

Period of immunity reduced to four weeks

There is emerging evidence that new variants of COVID-19 can evade prior immunity, meaning it is easier to become reinfected. Therefore, the period when someone is exempt from testing and isolation/quarantine requirements following infection has been reduced to **four weeks** (from 12 weeks previously).

If you start to develop COVID-19 symptoms from four weeks after leaving COVID-19 isolation, you must make sure you get tested. If you test positive again, you must isolate again for seven days. You must let us know if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 by calling our hotline on **(03) 5122 6300**.

Fourth COVID-19 vaccination 'winter dose' for over 30s

The eligibility criteria for a fourth vaccination dose have been expanded to help reduce severe illness from COVID-19. Please also consider receiving a free influenza vaccination.

A 'winter dose' is now available to adults aged 30 and above. You can receive the winter dose 3 months after your third dose or after being infected with COVID-19 if the infection has occurred since your third dose. Book an appointment with your GP, pharmacist, or immunisation provider.

COVID safety on campus

Do **not** come to campus if you are sick. Even if you have tested negative for COVID-19 or left isolation less than four weeks ago, if you are sick, please stay at home.

While the Victorian Government has advised that employers can consider working from home arrangements that are "most appropriate for their workplace", the importance of providing a full suite of services to our students and extended community is also of high importance. Any discussions of hybrid working arrangements should be addressed with your line manager in line with normal flexibility arrangements.

The university has put in extensive measures to make our campuses safe environments for all including physical distancing, hand sanitiser stations, cleaning products for shared spaces, increased ventilation measures and the COVID-19 hotline **(03) 5122 6300** to report a positive case.

Increased ventilation measures across our campuses

Our Property and Infrastructure team has implemented works across our campuses to improve ventilation and air filtration, via technical interventions to mechanical and building automation systems. Anyone with concerns should contact their supervisor or manager and where appropriate a works request can be logged via the Pulse system by your authorised unit representative.

Please stay safe and speak to your local health and safety representative if you want more information on your Local COVIDSafe Plan or the organisation's COVIDSafe Plan.

You can also find more information via [People and Culture Toolkits, including Staff FAQs](#).

Stay safe and stay well,

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

