

TERTIARY EDUCATION SETTINGS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

16 SEPTEMBER 2020 – VERSION 2.1

This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities.

The information in this document is current as of publication.

Tertiary education providers should continue to monitor information as it becomes available via the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website. Please refer to the latest information to ensure the most accurate advice.

ROADMAP FOR RETURN

More information on the Victorian Government's Roadmap to Return at www.vic.gov.au/roadmap

Please note the timing of steps in the Roadmap is subject to public health advice.

SETTINGS FOR METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

Can staff members attend training providers' premises?

In line with the Victorian Chief Health Officer's advice, there are restrictions on what on-site work can currently take place. For a list of permitted workplaces in the education and training sector, and the conditions of operation under Victoria's Stage 4 restrictions, visit the [DHHS website](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19).

On-site delivery is also permitted for essential assessments for VCE and VCAL students.

Trainers/assessors must only attend workplaces where the training activity is permitted.

Staff are able to go to their workplaces on an exceptional basis, such as to get critical equipment to display online or for materials required to deliver remote learning.

Organisations should ensure that any on-site attendance by staff complies with the restrictions.

What are the clinical health placement requirements?

For the latest DHHS advice on clinical health placements, please see the information from DHHS here:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>

When should employers issue worker permits?

Employers can issue a worker permit to their employee to attend a workplace on site only if:

- the organisation is on the list of permitted activities
- the employee is working in an approved category for on-site work, and
- the employee cannot work from home.

An employee must not use a worker permit, even if they have been issued one, if:

- they test positive to coronavirus (COVID-19) and are required to self-isolate, and/or
- they are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

What are the permitted activities?

Up-to-date information on permitted workplaces and permitted activities can be found on the [DHHS website](#).

Which occupations require first aid training for 'COVID response'?

The [DHHS website](#) notes that first aid training is permitted to continue on-site for permitted industries, where remote delivery is not possible. This is to support the safe operation of permitted industries.

Can on-site training continue for employers in industries listed as permitted workplaces elsewhere in the directions?

On-site training is only permitted to the extent it is set out in the Directions for the education and training sector.

Up-to-date information on permitted workplaces can be found on the [DHHS website](#).

Are civil construction apprenticeships included as an approved construction industry apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships (including civil construction) can continue, if the apprentice is employed at a permitted workplace in the construction sector. For more information, please refer to the [permitted industries page](#) of the construction section of the DHHS website.

Specific [construction sector guidance](#) is also available on the Business Victoria website.

Can students go to the training providers' premises to collect resources or to get in-person technical support?

No. TAFEs, registered training organisations, Learn Locals and universities have all moved to remote and online learning/support for students. If required, the training provider should organise for support and/or the distribution of resources to students to occur remotely.

SETTINGS FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA

Can staff members and students attend training providers' premises?

In regional Victoria, training should be delivered remotely wherever possible. However, tertiary education providers are permitted to deliver face-to-face where teaching, assessment and/or work placement cannot be done remotely.

Can trainers/assessors attend aged care facilities to assess students?

DHHS has advised that clinical placements in aged care facilities and coronavirus (COVID-19) wards, including emergency departments, should not take place at this time.

Can staff members and students travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria for study or work?

Travel restrictions apply to all metropolitan Melbourne residents.

Staff and students cannot travel to regional Victoria to undertake activities that are restricted under stage 4 in Melbourne.

However, staff and students who are permitted to leave home for work or study can travel more than 5 kilometres from their home for these purposes.

What are the clinical health placement requirements?

For the latest DHHS advice on clinical health placements, please see the information from DHHS here: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-updated-guidance-notes-14-august-2020-0>

USEFUL LINKS

www.vic.gov.au/roadmap

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/education-and-training-restrictions-covid-19>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-business-support>

<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>

<https://www.asqa.gov.au/resources/faqs/covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>