



Coronavirus Update

Friday, 25 September 2020

Dear colleagues,

Over the past fortnight Victoria has seen a significant drop in COVID-19 case numbers, as has Queensland which has recorded some days with no new cases this week.

For Victorians, there is keen interest in the government's announcements, planned for this Sunday, about Melbourne metropolitan areas taking the '[second step](#)' on the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap to reopening](#), which would see some restrictions eased. Regional Victoria remains at the '[third step](#)', which came into place on 16 September, while in Queensland, the [restrictions](#) have been significantly eased due to very low cases over the past few months – something we can all aspire to.

As we continue reviewing our students' needs to the end of semester two, and determining who must transition to some on-campus learning activities, we would like to provide an update on some of the key changes, including:

- revised position for students working in aged care
- restrictions on travelling between campuses
- requirements if you do transition to campus
- key resources and contacts for staff during the pandemic.

Revised position for students working in aged care

We previously excluded students working in private aged care from coming to campus, but have revised this position due to reduced case numbers and additional safety measures implemented in the Victorian aged care sector. This is particularly relevant to nursing students and staff.

Students working in aged care settings will now be able to attend on-campus activities, with specific requirements and safety measures in place. The first key requirement is that students must not cross the border between metro and regional areas. This means:

- Students in regional Victoria working in a regional aged care facility can travel to a regional campus to attend on-campus activities.
- Students in Melbourne working in a metropolitan aged care facility can travel to

Berwick Campus to attend on-campus activities (but not a regional campus).

Safety measures in place will include the following:

- **Screening process** – students must complete a survey and declaration before being allowed to attend an on-campus activity. On the day of the activity, students will receive a temperature check and be required to complete a health questionnaire before starting.
- **PPE and physical distancing** – students will be provided with a single use disposable mask. Where possible, activities have been modified to comply with physical distancing and where necessary students will be provided additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) such as disposable gloves, gowns, goggles and face shields.
- **Extra cleaning** – hygiene requirements will be reinforced in class and extra cleaning will occur during the day and at the end of the day.

Travel between campuses

As advised previously, students and staff **must not** travel between campuses and, in particular, between metro and regional areas.

Staff may submit a request to the Transition Control Group to consider a request to travel between campuses to complete an activity if there is no other option and only once a HIRAC has been completed. You must not travel between campuses if your request is not approved.

Requirements if you do transition to campus

Any staff attending campus will be advised by their Dean or Director once they've been approved to attend. Many Federation TAFE teaching staff are already on campus and have approved HIRACs in place.

Before attending, you must have an approved HIRAC in place and be aware of the health and safety requirements under that HIRAC. You must also complete the ELMO module *COVID-19 Transition to campus*, which outlines key requirements while you're on campus.

Key COVID-19 resources and contacts

Supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff at Federation University has been an important priority throughout the pandemic. Our approach is guided by government directions, Occupational Health and Safety policy and academic research. We aim to support our people through personal and lifestyle-focused resources.

You can find these resources on the Federation website via our [COVID-19 Support for staff](#), [Health and wellbeing](#) and [Coronavirus response](#) webpages.

Remember, if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, even if your symptoms are mild, it is vital that you remain isolated, do not come on campus, get tested and let us know.

- During business hours: call the **COVID-19 Hotline on (03) 5122 6300** (8:30 am to 5:00 pm).
- Outside business hours: call the **Emergency phone number 1800 333 732** for

confirmed cases (positive test result). Call the COVID-19 Hotline for suspected cases and negative COVID-19 test results (leave a message to be followed up the next morning).

If you are COVID-free and must attend campus for a one-off visit, first please seek approval from your Dean or Director. If approved, please [contact Security](#) via the campus numbers listed online and immediately leave campus once you have finished this activity.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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