

Subject: Coronavirus Update
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Coronavirus Update

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Dear colleagues,

The new COVID-19 case in Victoria last week is a timely reminder of how important contact tracing is in preventing COVID-19 outbreaks.

It has put the importance of QR code scanning and good record keeping back in the spotlight. As people have become confident in our safety in relation to COVID-19, the numbers of people scanning QR codes has dropped.

The Victorian Health Minister spoke of this as a “significant challenge” to a swift contact tracing response and the state government has put on-the-spot fines in place for venues intentionally failing to show QR codes and keep electronic records.

Have you checked in? QR codes around campus

We are asking all staff and students to **check-in anytime you are using any communal spaces on campus**, using the QR codes or written register in those spaces.

It's really simple:

- All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#). This means the data is kept by the relevant government departments for contact tracing only, and the data is not accessed by any marketing organisations
- To get started, download the relevant app via the links above
- Once you have added your details in the app the first time (name, phone number and contact info requested), it's really quick to scan the QR code via the app, so you do not have enter your details every time
- Facilities Services are checking around our campuses to make sure QR codes are in really prominent locations to make it easy to check in.

That means if you are ordering a coffee, visiting the library, using a gym or sitting in a communal study space, we need you to check-in. Of course, if you are simply walking through a space and not stopping, you do not need to scan.

There have been a small number of people with older mobile phones or phone operating

systems that have had issues with using the app, such as the camera not connecting with the app to scan. If this happens to you, there is a short number code unique to each QR code so you can enter that manually instead and you're done. There are also paper records in each communal space to write your name, which are collected for contact tracing purposes only.

Federation's policy on the New Zealand travel bubble.

In late April, a travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand commenced and we have been investigating whether we can allow travel to New Zealand for work and study purposes.

This will not be possible and Federation's existing ban on international travel for work and study purposes (other than exceptional circumstances) will remain in place.

Like most insurers, the University's insurer will not cover any COVID-19 impacts on health or travel. It's an unacceptable risk to allow staff and students to travel for work and study purposes without being covered by appropriate insurance.

The policy will be regularly reviewed in line with changes to government policy. If you have any concerns about this, please call the staff COVID-19 hotline on 5122 6300 so they can direct your call to the appropriate area.

Federation COVID-19 hotline for reporting

On a final note, with the recent case recorded in Victoria, we are reminding staff and students to let us know if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19. This means we can put in place a response including appropriate leave arrangements, concentrated cleaning and to assist in contact tracing.

- During business hours: call the COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300 (8:30am to 5:00pm).
- Outside business hours: call the emergency phone number 1800 333 732 for confirmed cases (positive test result). For a negative result, please call the COVID-19 hotline during business hours.

Keeping up to date with restrictions

Restrictions change quickly as we've seen over the past year. Keep up-to-date via:

- Daily check of the following government websites for changes and alerts at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or www.covid19.qld.gov.au
- Download the **VicEmergency app** on Android and Apple devices. There is a link on the home screen to Pandemic Advice for Victoria and notifications are issued to your phone when this advice changes
- You can also follow health authorities on social media for regular updates including the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](http://www.victorianhealth.gov.au) and [Queensland Health](http://www.health.qld.gov.au)
- Read, listen and watch the news. Most are broadcasting government updates as they happen.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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