



Coronavirus Update

Friday 6 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

Staff and students in Victoria and Brisbane have once again woken up to lockdown. Late yesterday, the Victorian Government announced a seven-day lockdown in response to a number of “mystery” COVID-19 cases and concerns over the rapid transmissibility of the Delta variant of the virus.

Details of the temporary impacts on our campus operations are below, as well as links to advice on restrictions, health and wellbeing support, and advice on how to proceed with working and studying from home.

Government advice on the South East Queensland lockdown is expected over the weekend.

In Victoria, our campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland and the Wimmera are temporarily closed until Friday 13 August, apart from some limited practical activities.

In Brisbane, our Brisbane Campus is also temporarily closed until Monday 9 August.

Impact on operations and access to campus

All staff should work from home, aside from a small group of essential workers on campus who will be contacted by their line manager. If you need to access campus to pick up equipment to effectively work from home, please speak to your manager and contact Security to access your office. Scan a QR code on arrival.

All Higher Education and TAFE classes in Victoria return to online delivery until Friday 13 August. Some practical activities will continue on campus from Monday 9 August. Students will be contacted directly via email and/or Moodle with specific advice.

Fed College will be open from Monday 9 August, in line with government advice.

Ballarat Tech School is closed until Friday 13 August.

HDR candidates should return to working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator where necessary.

All classes in Brisbane remain as online delivery until Monday 9 August, pending government advice.

Restrictions

In Victoria, the lockdown restrictions return to those in place at the end of July:

- Only five reasons to leave your home and five-kilometre travel limit
- Face masks indoors and outdoors
- No visitors to your home or student residence
- No outdoor public gatherings
- Work from home if you can and schools and tertiary education closed
- Retail, entertainment, community sports, fitness and community centres, and personal care closed. Take-away only for cafes and restaurants.

You can find the full details at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or refer to the attached table of restrictions. To understand the reasons for the lockdown declared by the Victoria's Acting Chief Health Officer, you can read the full [Statement from the Premier](#) here.

In South East Queensland, including Brisbane, restrictions include only four reasons to leave your home, a 10-kilometre travel limit, face masks indoors and outdoors, work and study from home, and no visitors to your home allowed.

You can find full details of restrictions at [Roadmap to easing Restrictions | Queensland Government \(covid19.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/coronavirus/roadmap-to-easing-restrictions).

Key advice to Federation staff

Health and wellbeing support

Throughout the pandemic, Human Resources has offered a range of health and wellbeing supports to help you get through the challenges of lockdowns and working remotely.

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.

Federation University's on campus Health Centres are also open if you have any general

health issues. Do not attend the centres if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (cold, flu, cough, fever) you should instead get tested and isolate until you return a negative result, and can phone for options to speak to a GP or nurse. Go to the [health services page](#) for information and contact details.

If you need practical advice and toolkits for working from home, visit [COVID-19 support for staff](#). If you need further advice, you can contact the Federation COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300.

Update your details in Employee Self Service

When the University and TAFE is required to close at short notice, the quickest way for us to contact you is via SMS. The mobile phone number in [Employee Self Service](#) is the number that the SMS is sent to, so we strongly encourage all staff to check if their number is up to date.

An SMS was sent to staff in Victoria last night advising of the campus closure. If you did not receive an SMS it may be due to a wrong number in the system or an issue with your mobile phone provider.

Home schooling

For those staff with school aged children, we understand that remote learning is difficult, so if you need to take time out of your working day to support your children, you do not need to apply for any leave over this short lockdown period.

Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE

Please work with your students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling.

Students are being asked to check their course Moodle site for arrangements. TAFE students studying courses that are not in Moodle are being contacted directly by TAFE.

Placements

The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if your placement allows. Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

Where to check COVID-19 public exposure sites in Victoria and Queensland

The list of COVID-19 public exposure sites is expected to grow over the next few days as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive. We highly recommend that you check the full list of exposure sites each day. In Victoria, go to coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites and in Queensland, go to [Contact tracing COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government](#).

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please speak to your manager for advice if you need to isolate for 14 days so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

Please let us know immediately if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 by calling our hotline on **(03) 5122 6300** (8:30am to 5:00pm). After hours, if you return a positive COVID-19 test, please contact our emergency phone number 1800 333 732 so we can put in place cleaning and isolation measures.

Find information on COVID-19 vaccinations

Vaccination is our way out of repeated lockdowns and we encourage staff to get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. You can take time out of your working days to get vaccinated.

To book a vaccination at a state-run centre, follow the links at:

- In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'

To book at your GP or check the eligibility criteria go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

We are hopeful that this lockdown will be as short as planned and we can restart our return to campus for semester two.

Until then, please stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

