

**Subject:** Coronavirus Update  
**Date:** Friday, 1 October 2021 5:59:00 PM

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## Coronavirus Update

Friday, 1 October 2021

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government has announced a snap 7-day lockdown for the Moorabool local government area from 11.59pm tonight due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

This area includes Ballan, Bacchus Marsh and other smaller towns to the east of Ballarat. We understand some of our staff and students live in this area and travel to our Ballarat or Wimmera campuses.

The lockdown means that the Moorabool local government area is under metropolitan Melbourne lockdown restrictions (excluding curfew) until 11:59pm Friday 8 October.

**For staff and students living in Moorabool, please follow the lockdown restrictions and do not attend campus until the lockdown is lifted unless you have a permit for authorised work or study. There is advice below on obtaining a permit.**

You can find more detailed information on restrictions at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

### **Key advice for Federation staff**

#### **Collecting computers and equipment to work from home**

We hope our staff have what they need to work effectively from home during the 7-day lockdown. If not, you can travel to campus to pick up equipment. Speak to your manager/supervisor to get approval from your Dean or Director to visit campus.

When you visit campus to collect your things, contact campus security to confirm when you are visiting campus and to gain access to buildings if required. Please bring your staff ID, always scan a QR code as you arrive at campus and return home as soon as you have your equipment.

- Ballarat campuses security – phone: 5327 6333

- Wimmera campus security – phone: 0407 080 782 or 0418 448 665

### **Seeking an authorised work or higher education permit**

Staff and students from Moorabool local government area will now need a permit to attend a Federation University or TAFE campus. The permit can also be used by staff in areas under lockdown restrictions to seek childcare (childcare centres and kinders in lockdown areas are closed, except to children that have one parent that is an authorised worker and vulnerable children).

To apply, find the application form and information on limited authorised worker categories at [Authorised provider and authorised worker permit | Coronavirus Victoria](#).

Staff and students should then email their application to the appropriate contact below and cannot attend campus until the permit is approved.

- Staff permits – email [hr@federation.edu.au](mailto:hr@federation.edu.au) or call 03 5327 6300.
- Higher education student permits – email [WIL@federation.edu.au](mailto:WIL@federation.edu.au)
- HDR student permits – email [dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au](mailto:dean.gradstudies@federation.edu.au)
- TAFE students including those attending regional campuses but residing in lockdown areas:
  - Authorised apprentices will need to seek a permit from their employer to continue study on campus.
  - The only non-apprentice group of students allowed onsite for practical delivery is Diploma of Nursing. Email Lee Wheeler, Education Manager Health and Nursing Programs at [l.wheeler@federation.edu.au](mailto:l.wheeler@federation.edu.au).
  - All other TAFE work placements must be reviewed by the General Manager, TAFE – email [tafe.placements@federation.edu.au](mailto:tafe.placements@federation.edu.au).

### **What to do if you have COVID-19 or have visited an exposure site**

Please let us know immediately by calling the Federation COVID-19 hotline if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 or have visited an exposure site.

- During business hours call [0351226300](tel:0351226300) (from 8:30am to 5:00pm).
- After hours, call our emergency number [1800333732](tel:1800333732) if you test positive. If you test negative, leave a message on the hotline number.

If a student tells you that they are self-isolating or have had a COVID-19 test, please get them to call the hotline immediately.

Details of staff and students who call the hotline will be kept confidential and will only be shared with those directly involved in our COVID-19 response.

## Check public exposure sites daily

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites is growing as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive. We highly recommend that you check the list of Victorian exposure sites each day at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites). Please note that exposure sites are listed by suburb name rather than region.

## COVID-19 vaccinations

Federation University recognises that vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can book a vaccination through a State Government run clinic or via your GP or pharmacist. For vaccination information in your state, go to:

- In Victoria '[Book your vaccine appointment](#)'
- In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'.

We also encourage you to complete the brief anonymous [Federation Vaccination Survey](#) by Monday 4 October 2021. The information collected will help to better understand how staff and students feel about COVID-19 vaccinations and inform the way in which the University will approach vaccinations.

## Health and wellbeing support

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.

Stay safe and stay well.

**On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group**

