



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Dear Student,

The following is an important update from the COVID-19 Transition Control Group.

COVID-19 impact on staff and student travel

The Melbourne metropolitan area and Mitchell Shire are currently back under stage three restrictions, and the Victorian Government is only allowing travel outside of the areas under stage three restrictions provided that travel is for work or study. This is in place over the six week restriction period (until 17 August). It is important to note that students can still complete the practical work needed to progress in their studies or graduate.

For most of you, online study is continuing until mid-semester two.

There are a number of our students however, who need to travel outside of restricted areas in order to complete activities that are essential to undertaking a placement, for some TAFE studies, or to graduate from their programs.

We are therefore allowing minimal, but restricted travel outside of the restricted areas for essential activities only. We have measures in place to minimise risk, which will be closely monitored to ensure no one is put at any unnecessary risk.

Where possible, we will delay activities until the end of stage three restrictions, in order to minimise the risk to all.

Students who are approved for travel will be provided with an electronic letter from the university to allow them to pass through police checkpoints to access our campuses or their placement providers.

Face masks

Over the weekend, the Victorian Government mandated the wearing of face masks in public for anyone in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire, starting this Thursday. In regional Victoria, you must also wear a face mask in situations where you cannot maintain 1.5m physical distance from others.

To keep our staff and students safe, we are implementing these government requirements on our campuses, as follows:

- If you visit Berwick Campus, you must wear a face mask
- If you live in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire, you must wear a face mask at any campus you visit
- If you live in regional Victoria and visit Ballarat, Gippsland or Wimmera campuses, it is recommended that you wear a face mask when you cannot physically distance
- In you live in Queensland and visit Brisbane campus, there is no requirement for a face mask under Queensland restrictions.

Where possible, Federation will supply face masks but demand is high and we do expect that staff and students will source their own face mask as well.

This is a major cultural change for many Victorians. There is fantastic advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer on [how to wear a face mask](#), which types to use, can they be reused, and what to do if you can't source a face mask easily. We strongly encourage you to read these resources and watch the video too.

Your health and wellbeing

We remind you of the [COVID-19 Support Services for Students](#), which remain available during semester break, and encourage you again to make this link a favourite on your internet search engine so you can readily access support as you need it.

Student counselling

Remember that you can talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online, if you are feeling anxious or distressed. Get emergency contacts and learn how to [make an appointment here](#).

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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