

Subject: Coronavirus Update
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Coronavirus Update

Tuesday 5 October 2021

Dear colleagues,

Good news for our staff and students in the Gippsland region with the lifting of lockdown for the City of Latrobe at 11:59pm tonight.

However, with case numbers rising significantly across Melbourne and regional Victoria, it has never been so important to remain vigilant in complying with restrictions and getting vaccinated as soon as you can.

Below is information on our campus operations, COVID Safe measures and key contacts and resources.

Campus operations

Ballarat, Gippsland and Wimmera campuses are open for up to 25 per cent of staff and approved student activity, in accordance with government COVIDSafe restrictions.

- Higher education, TAFE and HDR studies continue online, aside from limited practical on-campus activities, aligned to the authorised worker list. Staff and students will be contacted directly if applicable to them.
- Campus facilities and services open but with density limits in place (libraries remain closed).
- A permit system applies for all students and staff from metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, City of Greater Shepparton and Moorabool Shire (any area in lockdown) to visit other campuses, based on government authorised work or study categories. [Permit system info here](#).

Berwick Campus is closed in line with lockdown restrictions.

- Limited authorised activity for staff and students on campus with an approved work or study permit (affected staff and students will be contacted directly if required on campus).

Brisbane Campus remains open and is unaffected by the Victorian restrictions.

You can find more detailed information on restrictions at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au and www.covid19.qld.gov.au.

Four key principles for the safe transition to work on campus

If you are working or studying on campus, four key safety principles apply.

1. If you feel unwell – don't come to campus. If you have symptoms similar to COVID-19 you must get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible and self-isolate until you receive a negative result.
2. Physical distancing measures apply, and you must wear a face masks indoors and outdoors on campus www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks.
3. Frequently wash or sanitise hands and clean any surfaces you touch with sanitising wipes when using campus spaces (sanitiser etc. are supplied by the university).
4. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).

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 **03 5122 6300** (from 8:30am to 5:00pm).
- After hours, call our emergency number **1800 333 732** 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. 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 Victoria visit '[Book your vaccine appointment](#)' and for Queensland visit '[Protect yourself and others](#)'.

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 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

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