TERTIARY EDUCATION SETTINGS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

17 NOVEMBER 2020 – VERSION 7.1

ROADMAP FOR REOPENING

Please find more information on the Victorian Government's please go to
https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-reopening-roadmap-metro-melbourne

Information about COVIDSafe plans can be found at
https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/covidsafe-plan

Are there tips for tertiary education providers to use when developing their COVIDSafe Plans?

DHHS has provided the following tips on developing COVIDSafe plans for tertiary education settings.

- COVIDSafe plans must be specific for an education setting, with considerations above and beyond the generic COVIDSafe Plan for workplaces. Considerations need to encompass the unique situation of both staff and students on-site.
- The plan needs to be state-specific – currently Victoria has different requirements from the rest of Australia. If the organisation is not Victorian-based and the plan is written from a perspective of the home state of the organisation, it will require additions for Victorian-based campuses.
- Considerations are required for both staff and students who are involved at sensitive settings (hospital, residential aged care facilities, disability facilities) either as part of your facility's activities or external to them. A log of staff and students who attend any of these settings needs to be recorded for contract tracing purposes.
- A central collection of attendance records should be instituted to allow rapid sharing of this information with DHHS staff for contract tracing purposes.
- If applicable, student accommodation and international student requirements may need to be addressed.

Can staff members at tertiary education providers attend on-site at their workplace?

Under Third Step restrictions in metropolitan Melbourne (from 11.59pm 27 October 2020), training should be delivered remotely wherever possible. However, tertiary education providers are permitted to deliver face-to-face teaching where assessment and/or work placement cannot be done remotely.

Organisations should ensure that any on-site attendance by staff complies with the restrictions.

What are the clinical health placement requirements? Who can do them and when can they occur?

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has provided updated advice on clinical student placements for both education and health providers at: Health service planning - coronavirus (COVID-19)

Can students who have completed all relevant theory return to on-site training for their practical component?

Under the Third Step in metropolitan Melbourne, tertiary education providers are permitted to provide face-to-face teaching, assessment and/or work placement where this cannot be done remotely, and subject to any restrictions on particular workplaces.

Can students attend on-site training if they can't learn from home?

Under the Third Step of Victoria's roadmap for reopening, students should continue to learn from home if they can.

Practical skills-based learning that cannot be done from home can still occur on-site.

If a student is not able to learn from home (i.e. because there are concerns about safety at home, or they have a disability) they are permitted to undertake face-to-face training and assessment.

The tertiary education provider must have a comprehensive COVIDSafe plan in place prior to any student attending face-to-face training. For multi-use buildings (i.e. childcare, office space, training rooms), the COVIDSafe plan must address all aspects of the relevant location. A COVIDSafe plan is required for each separate facility.

What are the density limits for a training space?

To limit the number of people who may gather in a facility at the same time, businesses must only allow entry to one person for every four square metres of available floor space in their premises. DHHS publishes relevant information on the four and two square metre rules. To assist with communicating with patrons, you can access helpful signage.

Are face masks mandatory for trainers when delivering face-to-face training?

Trainers are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can.
Trainers should always wear face masks in other areas of the facility when not teaching, such as in the break room, unless they have a lawful reason not to.

Can tertiary education providers open their libraries and/or community spaces for those who need them? (i.e. to use computers, learning support)

Under the Third Step of Victoria's roadmap for reopening, students should continue to learn from home if they can.

When students need to access computers and/or learning support to undertake their training and they cannot be accessed remotely, students can attend the tertiary education provider's library or community spaces to receive these supports. Libraries or other community spaces will be subject to density quotients and patron caps according to the type of facility.

A tertiary education provider must have a comprehensive COVIDSafe plan in place prior to any student attending these facilities.

USEFUL LINKS

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au
www.vic.gov.au/roadmap
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/education-and-training-restrictions-covid-19
https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx
https://www.business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-business-support
https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx
https://www.asqa.gov.au/resources/faqs/covid-19
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19