



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 27 May 2021

Dear Student,

A short time ago, the Victorian Government announced a 7-day “circuit breaker” lockdown across the state of Victoria to stop the transmission of a “quick and contagious” variant of COVID-19.

This does not impact students at our Brisbane or non-Victorian campuses.

As a result of the lockdown, higher education and TAFE will move to remote learning for the 7-day lockdown period.

Federation University Australia’s Victorian campuses will temporarily close from tonight until 11:59pm Thursday 3 June.

Remote learning will continue for those programs that are still running classes. [Academic support services](#), critical at this point in the semester, continue to be available online.

We again remind you of the [student support services](#) available to you, including learning and academic support. We understand that after the past year this may trigger strong emotions for some of you and if you are feeling anxious or distressed, talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online. Get emergency contacts and learn how to make an appointment [here](#).

If you experience mental health challenges outside of business hours, the University has introduced a special crisis line operating 4.30 pm – 9.00 am AEST on weekdays, and with 24-hour availability on weekends and public holidays. To

access this service within Australia, please call 1300 758 109. If you are outside Australia, SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a callback.

Restrictions information

The restrictions announced for Victoria today include the following:

- Face masks required whenever you leave your home – aside from lawful exemptions
- Five reasons to leave the house:
 - shopping for essential goods and services
 - two hours of exercise with one other person or your household
 - authorised or permitted education
 - medical care and caregiving
 - to get a COVID-19 vaccination (vaccination eligibility has been extended to anyone 40 years or older in Victoria – details below)
- Five-kilometre limit for shopping and exercise (or nearest location if living remote)
- No visitors to your home and no public gatherings – however, you can make a social bubble with one other person
- Open – childcare and kinder, and student residences
- Closed – higher education and TAFE (remote learning only)
- Closed – primary and secondary school (remote learning with onsite supervision only for children of authorised workers or vulnerable students)
- Closed – libraries, sport and recreation facilities and community sport (indoors and outdoors).

Remote learning arrangements

- Higher education and TAFE return to remote learning until Friday 4 June.
- Academic staff will work with their students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling.
- Students should check the course [Moodle](#) site for arrangements.
- TAFE students studying courses that are not in Moodle are being contacted directly by TAFE.

Placements

- The university and TAFE will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible.
- Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.
- Other placements are not considered essential services and are not expected to continue during the lockdown period. However, if a placement can be undertaken online, you may work from home.

Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) candidates

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

Facilities open and closed

- Childcare delivered at our Federation's Children's Centres remains open.
- FedLiving residences remain open for students in accommodation. Students in residence can remain in their place of residence and will need to follow lockdown requirements. Further information is being provided to students in residence.
- All office and classroom spaces closed until Friday 4 June. Food outlets on campus, fitness centres, libraries, community sport and swimming pools will be closed until next Friday 4 June.
- No events involving students can go ahead until after restrictions have eased to allow these again.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination

- Vaccination eligibility has been extended to anyone 40 years or older in Victoria, you can [find booking details here](#).

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

You must let us know if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, so we can put in place a swift response including appropriate leave arrangements, concentrated cleaning and to assist in contact tracing if a case is confirmed.

- During business hours: COVID-19 hotline (03) 5122 6300 (8.30 am to 5.00 pm).
- Outside business hours: If you are confirmed as having COVID-19 outside these hours, please call the emergency phone number 1800 333 732. To report a suspected case, or a negative result, please call the COVID-19 hotline the following day during business hours.

Keeping up to date with restrictions

Restrictions change quickly as we've seen over the past year. Keep up-to-date via:

- Daily check of the following government websites for changes and alerts at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or www.covid19.qld.gov.au
- Download the **VicEmergency app** for the link on the home screen to Pandemic Advice for Victoria
- You can also follow health authorities on social media for regular updates including the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.victorianhealth.gov.au) and [Queensland Health](https://www.health.qld.gov.au)
- Read, listen and watch the news. Most are broadcasting government updates as they happen.

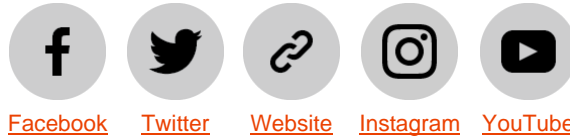
The [Acting Premier's statement is available online now](#) if you wish to read it – on this page you can also download the full detailed table of restrictions.

The COVID-19 Transition Control Group will provide further updates as needed about the status of any further restrictions and the impact these may have on our operations.

The safety and wellbeing of our community are our priority and we appreciate your support.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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