



## Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 27 May 2021

Dear Student,

The number of positive COVID-19 cases linked to the Melbourne northern suburbs cluster increased yesterday, with public exposure sites now extending across Victoria.

Federation has always followed government requirements and we wanted to clarify what the current restrictions in Greater Melbourne mean for staff and students. Restrictions include the requirement to wear face masks while indoors and gathering limits (maximum five visitors at home, 30 people outdoors).

Below is the advice as at 8.00 am this morning. We understand that there is significant speculation in the media of further restrictions being introduced today. **If an announcement is made, we will update you as soon as possible**, with advice on how these affect Federation University and Federation TAFE operations.

### Requirements on campus

You can travel between campuses but the following requirements apply:

**Face masks – attending Berwick Campus:** you must wear a face mask in all indoor spaces on campus (or anywhere indoors in the Melbourne metropolitan area).

**Face masks – at other campuses:** you are only required to wear a face mask indoors at our regional campuses if you live in Greater Melbourne and have travelled to that campus.

**Meetings:** wherever possible, hold meetings online via Teams, even if the meeting involves people from outside of Fed.

**Check exposure sites:** each day you must [check the exposure sites](#), then follow the testing and isolation requirements if you have visited a public exposure site.

**Working from home (HDR candidates based at Berwick):** we are hopeful that these new restrictions will only be in place for a short period of time. If there is no particular need for you to attend the Berwick campus, you may wish to temporarily return to working from home while these restrictions are in place and come back to on campus-study once restrictions ease again. Please discuss with your supervisor and/or HDR Coordinator. They (or you) can call the COVID-19 hotline for advice if needed (below).

## **Reminder to all HDR candidates**

While our campuses in regional Victoria and Brisbane are not currently impacted, it is a timely reminder to everyone to remain vigilant.

- You must stay at home if you are sick and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
- You must sign in via QR codes in shared public areas, such as food outlets, gyms and libraries. This is vital for contact tracing should an outbreak occur. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).
- It is also essential that we maintain strict hygiene measures. This includes using the disinfectant wipes provided to clean equipment and surfaces in classrooms, meeting rooms and communal areas

**Federation COVID-19 hotline for reporting**

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: Call the COVID-19 hotline (03) 5122 6300 between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm.
- After 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](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or [www.covid19.qld.gov.au](http://www.covid19.qld.gov.au)
- Download the ***VicEmergency app*** on Android and Apple devices. There is a link on the home screen to Pandemic Advice for Victoria and notifications are issued to your phone when this advice changes
- You can also follow health authorities on social media for regular updates including the [Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-department-of-health-and-human-services) and [Queensland Health](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/)
- Read, listen and watch the news. Most are broadcasting government updates as they happen.

We again remind you of the [student support services](#) available to 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](#).

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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