

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

13 JULY 2021 – VERSION 12

This fact sheet is for all tertiary education providers, including Learn Locals, TAFEs, registered training organisations and universities.

The information in this document is current as of publication.

Tertiary education providers should continue to monitor information as it becomes available via the Department of Health (DH) website. Please refer to the latest information to ensure the most accurate advice.

Can staff members and students attend training providers' premises?

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer all TAFEs, universities and training providers across Victoria can open for all on-site learning.

Do physical distancing and density quotients apply for on-site attendance?

Density limits do not apply in learning and classrooms spaces used by students. However, a variety of strategies to support physical distancing among students and staff on-site should be implemented, to the extent that is reasonably practicable.

A density quotient of 1 person per 2sqm is applicable to all staff areas such as staff lunchrooms and areas accessed by the public, such as reception areas.

For public areas (foyer/reception area), signage should be displayed to indicate the maximum number of members of the public that may be present in the space at a single time.

Are face masks required for training and/or assessment?

Indoor learning spaces, such as classrooms, are considered public facing areas and face masks continue to be required to be worn by staff and students aged 12 and over in these spaces unless a [lawful exception](#) applies.

For the purposes of communicating, teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can.

Face masks are not required in staff areas or areas of the workplace that are not public facing. However, they must be carried at all times.

Face masks are recommended outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Can staff members and students move between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria?

There is no restriction of movement between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria for the purpose of work or education. Students and staff who live in regional Victoria and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in metropolitan Melbourne (or vice versa) can attend on-site.

Can face-to-face learning occur for VCE/VCAL/VETiS students?

All students can participate in their VCE/VCAL/VETiS classes in TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers and other training organisations.

Can students from different schools mix when attending VCE/VCAL/VETiS training?

Yes, however schools should contact their RTOs to understand any changes to their current operating arrangements.

The following health and safety measures should be put in place to minimise risk associated with learning outside the school environment:

- Mixing of students from different educational facilities and schools should be minimised whenever practical.
- Physical distancing should be maintained whenever possible, particularly for classes that involve attendance by students from multiple institutions.

What are the clinical health placement requirements?

For the latest DH advice on clinical health placements, please see the information from DH here:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-covid-19-guidance>

Can trainers/assessors attend aged care facilities to assess students?

DH has advised that clinical placements in residential care facilities can continue, with controls in place as detailed in:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/student-clinical-placements-covid-19-guidance>

Is Electronic Record Keeping for onsite attendance required?

All workplaces including TAFE, university and training provider settings, must use the Victorian Government QR Code Service.

To register your organisation for a QR Code, click [here](#).

All staff, contractors, visitors and students must use the Service Vic app to check in to all venues and facilities within the campus.

Additionally, venues must make reasonable efforts to provide an iPad or other device for people who do not have

access to a device, or use alternative record keeping system (such as pen and paper) when it is not practicable for a person to record their attendance using QR codes, or where there is a technical access issue with QR codes.

To find out more about the Victorian Government QR Code service go to: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/qr-codes-and-digital-record-keeping-contact-tracing>.

What are the arrangements for students and staff in Victorian border communities?

Students and staff who live in regional Victoria and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in a bordering state will be able to attend on site if permitted by that State.

Students and staff who live in bordering states and are enrolled in or work in a TAFE, university or training provider in Victoria can attend on site.

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/tafe-training-providers-apprentices-and-trainees>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/Pages/coronavirus-advice-tafe.aspx>

<https://www.business.vic.gov.au/business-information/covid-19-business-information>

<https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/aboutus/Pages/covid-19info.aspx>

<https://www.asqa.gov.au/covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/health-service-planning-covid-19>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine>

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/mental-health-hygiene-and-wellbeing-tafe>