



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Wednesday 14 July 2021

Dear Student,

We need to provide clarification regarding the face mask rules in classrooms and trade training and update you on COVID-19 public exposure sites in Victoria.

Face mask rules in classrooms and trade training

Last week, we advised you that face masks were not required in classrooms or trade training environments.

We now need to change this and advise that you must wear face masks in class and trade training environments in TAFE and higher education.

The advice last week was given based on the advice for all schools, school staff and workplaces. However, the Department of Education and Training has sent advice this week to all adult education institutions advising that classrooms and trade training environments are considered public spaces – so face masks must continue to be worn by students (where safe to do so).

Staff do not need to wear a mask while teaching in these spaces but must put it back on when not engaged in teaching activities.

Face masks must be worn in all clinical settings such as medical centres and while engaged in nursing and health discipline practicals.

We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

New exposure sites in Victoria

Due to the significant outbreak of COVID-19 in New South Wales, new positive cases have been recorded in Victoria in the past 24 hours, due to people travelling from NSW to VIC. There are new exposure sites listed at

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites.

Ballan exposure site: Ballan Mobil Service Centre has been listed as an exposure site on 8 July between 5:00 – 7:00pm. This service centre is a regular stop for many people travelling between Western Victoria (including Ballarat) and Melbourne.

There are also exposure sites listed in Craigieburn, Maribyrnong and Broadmeadows.

If you were at an exposure site at the times listed on the website, there are testing and home quarantine requirements. If you are personally impacted by these, please speak to your course coordinator or teaching team so we can help you with alternative arrangements due to any home quarantine period.

You will not be penalised for following the home quarantine requirements of Victorian authorities.

Please check the public exposure sites regularly on the [Victorian Government Coronavirus website](#).

Home quarantine for anyone returning from New South Wales

As of Monday, all of New South Wales became a “red zone” for people travelling from NSW to VIC. Greater Sydney was already a “red zone”.

This means anyone who has travelled from NSW into Victoria since Monday must get tested for COVID-19 and isolate at home for 14 days (even if they return a negative test result).

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

If you have any questions or are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, please contact the COVID-19 hotline on (03) 5122 6300 (8:30am to 5:00pm). After hours, if you return a positive COVID-19 test, please contact our emergency phone number 1800 333 732 so we can put in place cleaning and isolation measures.

Support for students

We understand that news of recent COVID-19 cases can be concerning but we are pleased that the numbers are very low in Victoria, and these do not affect our return to campus.

The feedback we have received is that extended periods of remote learning and working are not good for people's health and wellbeing, so we look forward to bringing staff and students back together on campus in Semester 2 starting next week.

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

If you experience mental health challenges outside of business hours, we have 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 on 1300 758 109 (in Australia) and SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a call back (if overseas).

Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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