



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Friday 16 July 2021

Dear Student,

Late yesterday, the Victorian Government announced a “short, sharp” five-day lockdown across Victoria until 11:59pm Tuesday 20 July, due to new COVID-19 cases in Victoria related to the NSW outbreak.

In accordance with lockdown restrictions, our campuses in Ballarat, Berwick, Gippsland and the Wimmera will close until next Wednesday.

While this is just a short lockdown at this stage, we know this is not the situation that anyone wanted. Once the restrictions begin to lift, we really look forward to returning to campus for Semester 2 as planned.

The information below provides details on restrictions, operations, and the range of health and wellbeing resources on offer to help you through this time.

Restrictions in place until 11:59pm Tuesday 20 July

Restrictions in place include:

- Face masks required whenever you leave your home – aside from lawful exemptions
- Five reasons to leave the house:
 - 1 person per household per day shopping for essential goods and services

- two hours of exercise with one person or members of your household
- authorised work or permitted education
- medical care and caregiving
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination (vaccination eligibility information below)
- Five kilometre limit for shopping and exercise (or nearest location)
- 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 – primary and secondary school (remote learning with onsite supervision only for children of authorised workers or vulnerable students)
- Closed – on campus hospitality and retail, libraries, sport and recreation facilities and community sport (indoors and outdoors), Print Centre

You can also find further information and a full table of restrictions at [Victorian Premier's statement online](#) or www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Key advice to Federation students

Remote learning arrangements for HE and TAFE

- Higher education and TAFE return to remote learning until Wednesday 21 July.
- Academic staff will work with their students to make alternative arrangements for on-campus classes, including moving to online or rescheduling.
- Students are being asked to check their course Moodle site for arrangements.
- TAFE students studying courses that are not in Moodle are being contacted directly by TAFE.
- HDR candidates should return to working from home and seek guidance from their supervisory team and/or their School HDR coordinator where necessary.
- All staff will work from home.
- Brisbane campus remains open and is unaffected by these Victorian restrictions.

Placements

- The university will work with students and placement providers to make alternative arrangements where possible, including working from home if your placement allows.
- Students in health and early childhood disciplines will be able to attend placements as these are deemed essential services.

New exposure sites in Victoria – check each day

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites is expected to continue to grow over the next few days as contact tracers work with people who have tested positive.

We highly recommend that you check the full list of Victorian exposure sites each day at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites while this current COVID-19 outbreak is brought under control.

This is particularly important as many people will have travelled around Melbourne and Victoria during the semester break.

If you have visited a public exposure site at a time listed, you will need to follow the COVID-19 testing and isolation advice. Please speak to your manager for advice if you need to isolate for 14 days so we can make arrangements to ensure you complete this isolation period.

Student support services are available

We know that many students are struggling with lockdown and we want to remind you that we are here to help if you need it.

The [Current students page](#) has links to a range of resources including counselling, academic support, personal support and resources to help you study online – but we hope this will be a short lockdown so the impact on Semester 2 will be limited.

If you are feeling anxious or distressed, you can talk with a Federation University counsellor free of charge, via phone or online - [make an appointment](#). If you experience mental health challenges outside of business hours, we have a special

crisis line operating in the evening, on weekends and public holidays, call 1300 758 109 (in Australia) and SMS +61 480 089 177 and request a call back (if overseas).

Important reminders and links to further information

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

Please let us know immediately if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 by calling our 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.

QR code scanning is mandatory on campus

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak affecting the university, we can contact you much more quickly if you have scanned a QR code on arrival at campus. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs in Victoria and Queensland. There are also paper records available if the QR code does not work for you. All of our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).

Find more information from government and health authorities here:

- **New face mask rules:**
[Face masks - when to wear a face mask | Coronavirus Victoria](#)
- **Full listing of exposure sites:**
[Case alerts – public exposure sites | Coronavirus Victoria](#)
- To book a vaccination, follow the links at:
 - In Victoria '[Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)'
 - In Queensland '[Protect yourself and others](#)'
 - To check eligibility criteria for people aged between 16 and 40 go to [Federal Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) pages.

We are hopeful that we can continue progressing our return to campus for Semester 2, with COVIDSafe measures in place, but as always will be guided by the government advice.

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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