



Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

Thursday 15 July 2021

Dear Student,

Both the Victorian and Queensland Governments have tightened restrictions in response to the current COVID-19 outbreaks across Australia. This includes changes to rules around mask wearing, which impacts our Victorian and Brisbane campuses.

In Victoria, there are unconfirmed media reports of a snap lockdown from 11.59pm tonight, Thursday 15 July. We will provide further communications to confirm this when it is officially announced by government. However, we encourage students to be prepared for this.

In Queensland, the current restrictions in parts of south-east Queensland, including Brisbane, have been extended until Friday 23 July.

Please read the information below.

Face masks required in all indoor settings

Victorian students

In Victoria, you are now required to wear a face masks in all indoor settings including in the workplace. You must also wear a face mask on public transport, ride share vehicles and in taxis.

If you are on campus today, all staff and students must wear a face mask while

indoors (aside from lawful exemptions such as while teaching). We know this will be disappointing to many, but it is a key protection against COVID-19. Outdoors a face mask is not required, unless you cannot maintain 1.5m physical distancing (such as at a public event).

Brisbane students

In Brisbane, the current restrictions have been extended a further seven days to Friday 23 July. This includes wearing face masks indoors, and outdoors with some exceptions, as well as limits on visitors and gatherings.

See current restrictions in place:

Victoria: coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Queensland: covid19.qld.gov.au

New exposure sites in Victoria

The list of COVID-19 public exposures sites has grown. New exposure sites listed include locations at the MCG and in Melbourne CBD, Barwon Heads, Waurn Ponds, Bundoora, Campbellfield, Footscray, a number of tram routes and other locations. Authorities have announced Bacchus Marsh Grammar and Barwon Heads Primary School are closed but at the time of sending this message, neither were officially listed as exposure sites. Check the list of exposure sites regularly for updates if you have links to these schools.

The full list of Victorian exposure sites is at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites and we advise all staff to check these daily while the current outbreak in Victoria 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 school or TAFE teaching team if this impacts your studies. You will not be penalised for isolating if required to do so by health authorities.

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** (8:30 am to 5:00 pm). 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](#).

Student support services are available

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, Federation has 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).

Find more information from government and health authorities:

- 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](#)
- Book a vaccination:
Victoria: [‘Who can get vaccinated against COVID-19’](#)
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 two, with COVIDSafe measures in place, but as always will be guided by the government advice.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



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