



Coronavirus Update

Friday 31 July, 2020

Dear colleagues

The following is an important update from the COVID-19 Transition Control Group, working to ensure that our pathway forward to on-campus operations is safe and in line with government health and safety requirements.

Face masks/coverings and new restrictions for some areas of regional Victoria

Across Victoria, the number of COVID-19 cases has continued to grow significantly, despite tougher restrictions being introduced, leading the Victorian Government to extend certain restrictions to regional Victoria to stop the spread of the virus.

Face masks/coverings

A major change is that from midnight this Sunday all Victorians will be required to wear a face mask/covering when outside their home, regardless of where they live. Face masks have been mandatory in Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire for a week.

If you attend any Federation University or Federation TAFE campus in Victoria you **must** wear a face mask. We ask that you continue to maintain physical distancing wherever possible, even if you are wearing a mask.

We expect that staff and students will now supply their own mask as this is a mandatory requirement from Monday whenever you leave the house. However, we will supply masks for students living in residence. If you simply can't find a face mask, you can use a scarf or a bandana as an interim measure.

There are some exceptions to the wearing of a face mask. These can be found at the DHHS website under [Face coverings at work](#). You must still carry a face mask or face covering with you at all times. The Transition Control Group is reviewing these exceptions to integrate into our *COVIDSafe Plan*.

Once again, if you can work from home, you must continue to work from home.

Making or donating a reusable face mask

We know that many Federation University staff, students and members of the community are making reusable cloth face masks for themselves, family and friends, and for sale.

You can find information on [making your own face mask](#) via the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) website including a pattern, recommendations about fabric to use, and a step-by-step video tutorial. There are many free patterns available online.

If staff wish to donate homemade masks to our students or wish to advise other staff they have them for sale please send an email to hr@federation.edu.au and we will include this information in our next communication.

Staff and students working in private aged care homes

Due to a recent surge in transmission of COVID-19 in private aged care facilities, the university must advise that you cannot come onto any university campus or FedLiving residences if you have been working in a private aged care facility over the past 14 days. This will take effect from this coming Monday 3 August.

Of course, you can continue to work from home but if this is difficult, please contact HR through the **COVID-19 Hotline on (03) 5122 6300**. Students should contact their Course Coordinator via email to discuss alternative arrangements.

New restrictions in certain Victorian regional areas

New restrictions now apply in local government areas of Moorabool, Golden Plains, Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong, Surf Coast, and the Borough of Queenscliffe. In these areas you will no longer be able to visit people or have visitors at home from today but cafes, restaurants, community sport and schools, etc. remain open. You can [find detailed information](#) at DHHS.

In other areas of regional Victoria, the same restrictions continue to apply, and metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire remain under stage three restrictions.

Reporting a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

If you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, it is vital that you let us know, even if your symptoms are mild.

During business hours: call the **COVID-19 Hotline on (03) 5122 6300** (8:30am to 5:00pm).

Outside business hours: call the **Emergency phone number 1800 333 732** for confirmed cases (positive test result). Call the COVID-19 Hotline for suspected cases and negative COVID-19 test results (leave a message to be followed up the next morning).

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group



