

Coronavirus Update

Thursday, 13 January 2022

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government's new pandemic orders commence from today, Thursday 13 January. Please read the advice below to know how these orders impact you. This includes:

- Mandatory booster vaccinations for some staff and students in high-risk industries
- Information for **all staff** on work and study arrangements
- Restrictions on dancing at events

Third-dose vaccine mandates

Staff and students working or undertaking university and TAFE practicals and work integrated learning in the following settings must provide evidence of their third vaccine dose (booster) by the following deadlines:

- **Healthcare workers** – if fully vaccinated on or before 12 September 2021, the deadline is **12 February**. If fully vaccinated after 12 September 2021, the deadline is **29 March 2022**.
- **Residential aged care facility workers** – if fully vaccinated on or before 12 September 2021, the deadline is **12 February**. If fully vaccinated after 12 September 2021, the deadline is **1 March 2022**.
- In **corrections, disability work, emergency services, food distribution, meat and seafood processing and hotel quarantine** – if fully vaccinated on or before 12 September 2021, the deadline is **12 February**. If fully vaccinated after 12 September 2021, the deadline is **12 March 2022**.

The mandatory third dose requirements may also apply to other groups within the university who are associated with the settings listed above, such as:

- any staff member of Higher Education Schools/TAFE attending those premises for

teaching, research, workplace assessments, etc.

- staff working within the Mt Helen medical centre
- staff and students working in clinical settings, such as the Mental Health Clinic at SMB or the Rehabilitation Centre at Mt Helen.

It is the responsibility of Deans and Directors to assess the application of the third dose mandate to their staff and students and to ensure compliance.

Please lodge your updated vaccination certificate following the same processes previously followed. Here are [instructions for staff](#) and for [students](#)

Find more information at [Worker vaccination requirements | Coronavirus Victoria](#)

Do I need to get a booster if I do not work in these industries?

The government has indicated it may extend the booster mandate to other industries, so we strongly encourage all staff to get their COVID-19 booster vaccination as soon as eligible. This is currently four months after your second dose but will reduce to three months from the end of January. [Book your booster here.](#)

Business continuity – please be patient, be kind

As the number of COVID-19 cases has increased, like many industries across Victoria, we are seeing staff having to isolate as close contacts or due to testing positive.

Deans and Directors need to decide how they will manage staff working arrangements and business continuity planning at an individual level and communicated by their plans to their staff.

As staff, please be patient and be kind, if any of the services at the university are not operating at full capacity, such as Facilities or Commercial Services. If you have an event that may be impacted, you will be contacted to work out how this can be managed.

Closure of indoor dancefloors

Unfortunately, anyone running events with indoor dance floors on university grounds or as part of a university organised event/activity, will need to cancel that event or hold the event outdoors instead. This may impact O Week events, FedLiving or university clubs and societies.

No change to work and study arrangements

The current Victorian Government advice about working from home is that “Victorians are encouraged to work and study from home if possible” and that [adult education facilities are open.](#)

We are not shifting to online learning and there are no current government restrictions on attending the workplace and no restrictions on teaching and learning activities.

Staff not involved in the student experience can work from home in the lead up to the start of higher education semester one in late February, when all staff will be required to work back on campus.

However, if your Dean or Director requires you on campus to effectively perform your job or support our students, you are required to work on campus.

This will be unique to each business area and there is no blanket rule for all staff.

We have a responsibility to provide high quality education and services to our students and communities, while also shifting our thinking to 'Living with COVID'.

That means unless government advice states otherwise, decisions around staff working arrangements and business continuity planning will be made at an individual level by Deans and Directors and will be communicated to staff by their Deans and Directors.

What are the current restrictions for our campuses?

The only restrictions that currently apply to Federation University and TAFE campuses are:

- Masks must be worn indoors
- Density limit of one person per 2 square metres in hospitality venues
- All staff must be vaccinated or have a valid exemption to attend campus
- All students must be vaccinated or have a valid exemption to attend campus from January 24

Federation COVID-19 hotline details

As a community, we are now living with COVID and as an employer, we will not necessarily be notified by health authorities if a staff member or student has tested positive to COVID-19.

We require staff and students to 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 (PCR or rapid antigen test), please contact our emergency phone number 1800 333 732 so we can put in place contact tracing, cleaning and isolation measures.

Please note these hotlines are just for reporting cases and prompting an internal response within the university. They are **not** able to provide advice regarding COVID, vaccines, restrictions, etc. For advice, contact the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080, the Victorian helpline on 1800 675 398 or the Queensland helpline on 134 268.

Further advice to staff

Five basic principles for working on campus

1. If you feel unwell – don't come to campus. If you have symptoms similar to COVID-19 you must get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible and self-isolate in line with government advice.
2. You must be vaccinated to protect yourself and others and have provided proof of vaccination status.

3. You must comply with any directives regarding wearing a face mask, currently only required when indoors on campus.
4. QR code scanning is mandatory at all universities and TAFEs.
5. Facilities are in place for all students, staff and visitors to frequently wash or sanitise their hands and clean communal spaces, with increased campus cleaning is in place.

Stay safe and stay well.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

Federation University footer

