

Coronavirus Update

TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 2020

Dear colleagues

Please see below the latest daily update for staff with information and actions Federation is taking to respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 situation.

Campus travel

We are updating the university travel policy to include a ban on non-essential travel between our campus regions. Given there are multiple campuses in Ballarat, we understand staff may need to travel between these campuses. This should be cleared with their Dean or Director. The ban on interstate and international university travel still applies. We will continue to review the travel policy as the pandemic situation evolves and will update staff on any changes.

Changes to library services

Campus libraries have been closed to non-library staff and students from today to assist in meeting social distancing measures, and in line with the pause on higher education teaching activities. Staff and students will still be able to access library services and receive assistance from library staff – all online. This includes accessing e-books, e-journals, research and digital skills training, copyright and course readings services and consultations. Students will continue to access a range of study spaces and computer labs across all campuses, with social distancing guidelines in place. Please direct students to the [library web page](#) for more information.

Essential staff and services

Along with all Victorian universities and TAFEs, we are continuing discussions with the Department of Education on what the government's decision to close non-essential services means for our sector. The [Premier's announcement](#) did **not** include universities and TAFEs. We expect to have more information in coming days, which we will communicate with our staff and students.

We do know that online delivery of programs and student services, as well as research, requires a number of staff to work on-campus. We are currently reviewing which services could be classed as essential and the staff required on-campus for their delivery. In

addition to this, professional development support is currently being offered to our partner providers regarding the transition to online.

HR hotline

Human Resources have established a COVID-19 hotline (03 5122 6300) to support staff who may have enquiries in relation to leave types available to them and working from home protocols. The hotline will be staffed between 8.30am – 5.00pm and will be operational from tomorrow, Wednesday 25 March. We encourage you to access this support and please continue to check our [website](#) for regular updates.

On behalf of the Critical Incident Response Team

