



Coronavirus Update

3 September 2020

Dear colleagues,

As the weekend approaches, we're all waiting to hear the formal announcement of the Victorian Government's roadmap out of stage 4 and stage 3 restrictions, with different plans anticipated for metropolitan and regional Victoria.

The COVID-19 Transition Control Group will meet first thing on Monday to start assessing the government's announcements and how these will likely impact on our transition strategy to bring staff and students onto campus at Federation University, Federation TAFE and in research fields.

We anticipate that we will need to revise the *Three-stage plan for a safe start on campus* and aim to share the updated plan with you as soon as possible later next week.

We must remind all staff and students though, that regardless of the government's announcement, working from home and studying online continues for most of us. It is our key safeguard to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace and in the community. Please do not come onto campus unless you are approved to do so.

We look forward to providing more information next week and will update you as soon as possible.

Health and wellbeing

We understand that the lockdown has been much harder on people emotionally and socially the second time around.

Twice a week our Human Resources staff have been sending out Motivational Monday and Wellness Wednesday updates with articles on ways to protect your health and mental wellbeing including some key free programs to help you, including:

- exercises to do at your desk at home
- health and fitness online group sessions in yoga, HIIT and pilates
- meditation sessions
- 'lunch and learn' sessions with advice from experts on a range of topics including the impact of nutrition on mental health and how to get a good night's sleep, with more sessions to come.

So far we've had more than 785 registrations for our exercise and meditation sessions and 525 registrations for our 'lunch and learn' sessions.

Audits of HIRACs underway

For the small number of staff and students, particularly for those at TAFE, we have put in place comprehensive Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Control procedures (HIRACs) tailored to the few specific activities still being performed on campus. The HIRACs define what must happen to keep staff and students safe, including the use of PPE, physical distancing and other measures.

To make sure the HIRACs are being followed, we have trained staff auditing the activities happening on campus at the moment.

As the HIRACs are vital to keeping staff and students safe, if we find breaches we will be following up and may suspend those activities altogether until it is safe to continue.

We understand it is a very different environment for those staff working on campus at the moment and we thank you for complying with the restrictions on the way you work, including wearing face masks and not socialising with colleagues in the way you would have in the past.

Keep up the good work and we hope that we're soon hearing some good news for everyone in Victoria.

On behalf of the Transition Control Group

