



Coronavirus Update

15 September 2020

Dear colleagues,

The Victorian Government has today announced that regional Victoria will move to the 'third step' in the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap to reopening](#) due to COVID-19 case numbers dropping below a daily average of five in the past fortnight. Metropolitan areas of Melbourne remain at the "first step" and our thoughts are with our colleagues and students living in these areas.

For those of us in regional areas though, it is an exciting moment for many of our staff and students as it means there will be new opportunities to spend time with friends and family.

However, for workplaces including our own, this does not mean a return to the office just yet. Working from home continues wherever possible and we ask that people only attend campus when they are invited to do so.

The Transition Control Group, in consultation with the Schools and Directorates is planning for a limited resumption of more face to face teaching at our regional campuses in the second half of semester (see below). We understand that many of our staff and students are eager to return to campus but the first steps will be limited and controlled.

The key points to the 'third step' are:

- No restrictions on leaving home
- Spend time with others outside where possible
- Public gatherings: up to 10 people outdoors
- Visitors allowed at home from 1 other nominated household (up to 5 people)
- Schools return to onsite learning from Term 4 with a staggered start and safety measures
- Hospitality open for outdoor and indoor seated service with density and time limits

All retail open, extended to personal care such as beauty and tattooing where a mask can be worn

- Outdoor contact and non-contact sport to return for children and outdoor non-contact sport permitted for adults
- Continuing requirement to wear a face mask or covering outside of your home.

The COVID-19 Transition Control Group continues to assess the government's roadmap to plan our transition to campus. This is detailed work involving academic and corporate leadership and Deans from across our schools. We are assessing the following against the roadmap:

- Each campus – planning tailored to different levels of restrictions and dates for reopening
- Every discipline and course – assessing students' needs to graduate or progress their studies
- Safety measures – contact tracing and a robust approach to collecting health information
- Revised language – aligning our language to reflect the new approach by the Victorian Government.

Thank you for your patience as we work through the plan but at this stage there is no change to who should attend our campuses.

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

Stay safe.

On behalf of the Transition Control Group

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