

Coronavirus Update

Friday, 11 March 2022

Dear colleagues,

As the Australian borders have now reopened to many countries, the COVID-19 Transition Control Group (TCG) would like to provide updated advice on international travel for work or study purposes.

We would also like to remind staff of the deadlines on third-dose vaccination mandates for certain industries. Please make sure you read the advice below.

TCG advice on the University's guidelines on international travel

The TCG has received confirmation via Finance Services that COVID-19 related travel insurance claims will be covered **unless a country's border is closed**.

Due to this advice, Federation University Australia is lifting the ban on international travel previously put in place due to COVID-19.

International travel for business, research or study purposes is now permitted in accordance with the existing provisions of the [Travel Policy](#) and [Travel Procedure](#) and the additional considerations and conditions listed below:

- Approval for international travel should only be given where it has been assessed (by the relevant approving Dean or Director) that it is **not** possible to successfully conduct business online
- All testing requirements, both for inbound and outbound travel will have to be covered by the approving cost centre
- It is the traveller's responsibility to be fully briefed on departure/return/transit COVID-19 requirements prior to boarding any flights and for all countries visited (including transiting). Travellers should refer to their itinerary for resources to contact, namely [Sherpa.com](https://www.sherpa.com), along with [DFAT](#) and contacting their FCM Travel consultant if unsure of current requirements.

Third-dose vaccination mandate

Currently, if you have had at least two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (or hold a valid exemption) and you have uploaded the required vaccination information into the Employee Self-Service system, you are able to work on campus.

As communicated previously, in addition, the Victorian Government has mandated that workers in certain settings are required to have a third dose in order to work in their industry. 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.

This mandate impacts on Victorian staff and students working or undertaking university and TAFE practicals and work integrated learning. In the following settings, evidence of their third vaccine dose must be provided by the following deadlines:

- childcare workers – the deadline is 25 March 2022
- healthcare workers – if fully vaccinated on or before 12 September 2021, the deadline is 12 March. If fully vaccinated after 12 September 2021, the deadline is 29 March 2022.
- in residential aged care, corrections, disability work, emergency services, food distribution, meat and seafood processing and hotel quarantine – 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.

Updated vaccination certificates can be lodged via the same processes previously followed. Here are [instructions for staff](#) and for [students](#)

Positive cases on campus and scanning QR codes

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must tell us so we can advise others who may have been in touch with you at the university. Your personal details will remain confidential.

Staff and students must call **Federation's COVID hotline** on **(03) 5122 6300** (8:30am to 5:00pm) or after hours, call our emergency phone number 1800 333 732.

While check in requirements have been removed in most settings, Universities, TAFEs, training and adult education providers must continue to undertake QR code check-ins of staff, students and visitors in line with the requirements prescribed in the [Open Premises Order](#).

QR code signage remains in place at these venues and paper records are available if the QR code does not work for you. All our QR codes come from the [Service Victoria app](#) and [Check In Qld app](#).

Find staff FAQs and further info at [Return to campus 2022 and Federation's response to coronavirus](#) and in the [Human Resources FAQ](#).

Stay safe and stay well,

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

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