



Coronavirus Update

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2020

Dear colleagues,

We are awaiting announcements by the Victorian Government this weekend about the further easing of restrictions in Melbourne metro areas and regional Victoria. Those of us in regional Victoria are already enjoying some greater freedoms but there is still significant uncertainty about what will happen next for metro areas.

This has made it difficult for the COVID-19 Transition Control Group to review the dates in our current transition to campus plan. However, we will meet next Monday morning to review and/or re-set any of the elements in our plan. We look forward to providing a further update after that meeting and encourage you to read the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) roadmap to reopening](#) to understand the current restrictions.

HIRAC submission deadlines

In recent weeks the TCG has found there has been a significant increase in the number of HIRAC submissions coming in for approval – with too many coming through at very short notice prior to our twice-weekly meetings.

This makes it very difficult for the Risk, Health and Safety team to properly assess the HIRACs arriving and make sure that everyone on campus has a plan in place to keep them safe.

As previously advised, we require HIRACs to be submitted with at least five clear working days' notice before approval in the lead up to either our Tuesday or Friday meetings.

Our Risk, Health and Safety team is a small but dedicated unit that requires adequate time to assess the HIRACs and to provide more assistance when needed. We also need to give our students adequate notification of when they are required on campus, so that they can make any necessary adjustments to their work and personal lives to accommodate specific sessions.

Please consider if you are likely to have any essential upcoming activities on campus in the lead up to Christmas and prepare your HIRACs well in advance.

Face mask requirements – face shields and scarves no longer allowed

Across Victoria, face masks are mandatory outside the home, and this includes on campus and in the workplace, but a significant change to this requirement has come into force this week.

You can no longer use a face shield, scarf or bandana as a face covering. Please have a look at the attached poster from the Department of Health and Human Services for further advice.

Disposable and reusable cloth masks are now readily available at pharmacies, retailers and online. You can also find patterns online to make your own mask.

There are a small number of exceptions to the face mask rule, including exceptions for children under 12, during strenuous exercise, for health reasons or if working on your own property with other members of your household. You can check the [DHHS website](#) for the full list of exceptions.

Key COVID-19 resources and contacts

Supporting the health and wellbeing of our staff at Federation University and Federation TAFE has been an important priority throughout the pandemic. Our approach is guided by government directions, Occupational Health and Safety policy and academic research. We aim to support our people through personal and lifestyle-focused resources.

You can find these resources on the Federation website via our [COVID-19 Support for staff](#), [Health and wellbeing](#) and [Coronavirus response](#) webpages.

Remember, if you are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, even if your symptoms are mild, it is vital that you remain isolated, do not come on campus and let us know.

- During business hours: call the **COVID-19 Hotline on (03) 5122 6300** (8:30 am to 5:00 pm).
- Outside business hours: call the **Emergency phone number 1800 333 732** for confirmed cases (positive test result). Call the COVID-19 Hotline for suspected cases and negative COVID-19 test results (leave a message to be followed up the next morning).

If you are COVID-free and must attend campus for a one-off visit, please [contact Security](#) via the campus numbers listed online.

Stay safe.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Transition Control Group

