



# **COVID SAFE PLAN 2022**

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Victoria University, CRICOS No. 00124K (Melbourne), 02475D (Sydney), RTO 3113, TEQSA No. PRV12152, Provider Category: Australian University

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For any queries relating to this document, contact <a href="mailto:coronavirus.response@vu.edu.au">coronavirus.response@vu.edu.au</a>

## **SECTION 1: Introduction**

The health and safety of the Victoria University (VU) community is the highest priority. VU is committed to protecting the VU community from the transmission of COVID-19 through a risk control framework. The risk controls outlined work together to protect the students, staff, contractors and visitors to the University and are applied to the diverse range of spaces and activities the University undertakes.

- This plan ensures compliance with the Victorian Government and Chief Health Officers recommendations as well as the New South Wales Governments Chief Health Officer's advice.
- Consultation on the Plan has occurred with the COVID Operations Working Group and safety representatives as well as the broader university community.
- The plan is a dynamic document and will be reviewed regularly, considering the changing nature of the pandemic and associated health orders. If appropriate, local COVID Safe plans to address specific requirements not covered by this plan may be in place.

This version is intended to support the University to be fully open for on-campus learning with staff engaging in a combination of on campus and work from home arrangements. It also outlines changes to vaccination requirements for staff, students and visitors.

### **Five Principles of COVID Safe Decision-Making**

| 1. | Health, safety and well-being focused | In all that we do, we give priority to the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff colleagues and communities.  |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2. | Nimble and quick                      | We will be agile and adaptable in our decision-making, planning and implementation -to address changes in our operating environment.                               |
| 3. | Logical and evidence-based            | All our decisions and actions are informed by evidence and the latest advice from the government and relevant health authorities.                                  |
| 4. | Hybrid approach                       | Our operating model relies upon the most suitable hybrid strategy–employing technologies and 'in person' solutions, often concurrently.                            |
| 5. | Sensible and easy to understand       | In the context of our common-sense approach, our decisions and actions are easy to explain in simple language. They make sense to our stakeholders and colleagues. |



#### **Current Victorian Government Health Orders**

The Victorian Government Pandemic Declaration and associated Pandemic Orders ended at 11:59pm on Wednesday 12 October 2022, resulting in a series of amendments to align with National Cabinet.

Vaccination requirements for students

It is recommended that students and visitors are fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is no longer required.

Local vaccination requirements remain in some industries, such as health and aged care facilities.

Vaccination requirements for staff

It is recommended that staff are fully vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is no longer required.

Local vaccination requirements remain in some industries, such as health and aged care facilities

Isolation

It is strongly recommended that any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 stays home and isolate for 5 days or until they are no longer symptomatic.

Close (household) contacts

There are no requirements for household contacts to isolate.

#### **Current New South Wales Government Health Orders**

There are no longer mandated COVID-19 requirements.

NSW Health strongly advises people get fully vaccinated and wear a face mask where they cannot physically distance.

### **COVID Safe Return to Campus**

With the lifting of orders, the University has moved to Level A Campus Open of the COVID Safe Transition to Campus model (see Appendix A).



## **SECTION 2: Scope of Plan**

This is a dynamic document that reflects the risks, mitigations and controls developed in response to COVID-19.

| Assessment I    | Date:           | Completed by:                           | Campus/Location:       |
|-----------------|-----------------|---|------------------------|
| 31 October 20   | 22              | COVID Executive Lead,                   | All campuses and sites |
| The risk rating | s were reviewed | Lucy Franzmann, Chief Financial Officer |                        |
| 31/10/2022.     |                 |   |                        |
|                 |                 |   |                        |

#### Describe what is being assessed for hazards:

Victoria University campuses and sites assessing the COVID-19 risks in to the cessation of the mandated COVID-19 Orders.

#### Scope:

This plan applies to all activities and premises of Victoria University, Australia. Whilst the COVID-19 situation is fluid and constantly changing, this document will cover the requirements for the continued safe operation of the university.

This document shall remain current until further notice. This document will be updated following any changes in Government recommendations in response to the pandemic and subsequently the outcomes of COVID-19 task force meetings. Any printed version of this document may not be the current version.

This plan is prepared for the whole of university. With the ending of Government Pandemic Orders, Adult Learning which includes Vocational and Higher Educational learning Childcare, School Holiday Programs, Primary and Secondary (including VETis, VCE, and VCAL) programs now all operate under the same requirements of this plan.

#### The following groups will be consulted for the plan:

- 1. Vice-Chancellor
- 2. Vice-Chancellor's Group
- 3. COVID Operations Group
- 4. Health and Safety Representatives
- 5. All VU staff and students



## **SECTION 3: Our COVID Safe Strategies**

## Strategy 1 – Activating our Campuses Safely

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Support workers to get tested and stay home even if they only have mild symptoms.
- 2. For more information on current restrictions, visit <u>coronavirus.vic.gov.au</u>. It is the single destination for all Victorian COVID-19 information and resources, including information about higher education, TAFE and training providers, apprentices and trainees, and health and wellbeing.

For more information visit, COVIDSafe workplaces.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health Requirements and Guidelines relating to Victoria University

- 1. Businesses have responsibility under the <u>NSW Work Health and Safety Act 2011</u> to ensure a safe working environment, including managing COVID-19 risks.
- 2. Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place will help address this.
- 3. For more information visit, Keeping Workers Safe.

#### Communication

- The University continues to communicate advice that is consistent with the Government's health recommendations to all students, staff, contractors and visitors to only attend on-campus if they are well.
- All persons attending Victoria University campuses and sites including students, staff, contractors and visitors are responsible for continually monitoring themselves for symptoms.
- VU continues to reinforce these messages by communicating with:
  - o Students and Staff: To protect the VU community, all students and staff should get tested (Rapid Antigen Test) at the first sign of COVID-19
  - Any person with symptoms should not attend campus until they no longer have symptoms including if they have received a negative test. This
    will ensure that other infectious diseases such as influenza are not spread on campus.
  - Any staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 and attended on-campus during their infectious period (defined as the 48 hours before
    first symptoms or positive test results), should inform their manager as soon as possible and alert the COVID Safe Team by completing the
     <u>online web form</u>. Where a manager has been notified of a COVID positive case, they should email <u>coronavirus.response@vu.edu.au</u>.
  - Students are requested to inform their course convener/teacher and complete the <u>online web form</u>. VU will manage all relevant notifications on their behalf.
  - o Conveners and/or teachers who have been notified should encourage students to report the positive result via the above online web form.



- Visitors and Contractors: It is essential that visitors and contractors, if they are feeling unwell and showing any signs of COVID-19 symptoms, do
  not attend any campus/site. This includes members of the public utilising our facilities, research participants, and persons attending on-campus
  events.
- VU locations visited by a COVID positive case during their infectious period are listed on a <u>7-day spreadsheet</u> that can be accessed from the staff SharePoint and the University's public website.
- All managers should continue to encourage students and staff to check the following webpages for the latest COVID-19 advice:
  - o Staff should continue to use the COVID Resources SharePoint Site
  - o Students, Contractors and Visitors should check the VU's response to COVID-19 website.

#### **Absence from the University**

- The University has enabled the following approach to be taken:
  - If a staff member tests positive, is asymptomatic and wishes to work, in agreement with their manager, they can continue to do so from home for the period of five days.
  - o If a staff member is unwell, they will need to notify their manager and apply for leave for the duration that they feel unwell, this arrangement can of course change if they feel better during the period of isolation.
  - More information about the process for teaching staff is available in the staff SharePoint FAQs, titled '<u>I am absent from 'in-person' class delivery</u> due to COVID-19. What do I do?'.
  - The University will utilise alternative student learning methods and assessment activities so as not to disadvantage students if they are unable to attend campus due to illness (this practice is no different to what was applied in a pre-pandemic operating environment).
- The University will utilise alternative student learning methods and assessment activities so as not to disadvantage students if they are unable to attend campus due to illness (this practice is no different to what was applied in a pre-pandemic operating environment).

#### **Rapid Antigen Monitoring**

- VU will follow the recommended Rapid Antigen monitoring protocols as described in the Victorian Department of Health <u>testing requirements for contacts</u> and exposed persons and NSW Government's <u>self-isolation rules for cases and people exposed to COVID-19.</u>
- Rapid Antigen Tests will be available from Campus Security for all students and staff and details of recipients will be recorded.



### Strategy 2 - Physical Distancing

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. There are no density recommendations.
- 2. You should provide information to workers on physical distancing expectations while working and socialising.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Physical distancing of 1.5 metres is not a legal requirement in an office environment.
- 2. Workplaces do however have a duty to comply with work health and safety legislation.
- 3. Workplaces should assess and reduce workplace risks as far as is reasonably practicable, including:
  - where possible, allowing people to keep a distance of 1.5 metres from others to reduce the risk of droplet transmission it is recognised that it may not be possible or feasible in every workplace. NOTE: Whilst not reflected in the government comments used, it is acknowledged that COVID-19 is an aerosol infection.

#### **Density Limits and Quotients**

- Victoria University monitors the Health Departments' recommendations relating to density quotients.
- Keeping 1.5 metres distance where possible remains a recommended control measure. VU will support staff to maintain physical distancing between workstations. 1.5 m 'head-to-head' distancing between people in staff work areas will be maintained where possible.
- Where there is local ('split systems' or window, wall and ceiling mounted air conditioning systems) or no ventilation systems in place, VU may reduce occupancy in these spaces.
- The University will continue to encourage students and staff to maintain safe physical distancing.
- Where physical distancing cannot or may not be maintained, we recommend that you wear a mask.

### Strategy 3 - Face Coverings

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Face masks are no longer mandated, excluding hospitals, health care facilities and specilalist lab facilities. They continue to be recommended for:
  - people who have COVID-19, for at least 7 days after a positive test, when they need to leave home.
  - workers serving or facing members of the public
  - times where physical distancing may not be possible.



#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Restrictions have eased and mask wearing is only required for people over the age of 12 as outlined below:
  - at a public hospital or private health facility
  - at a residential care facility or hostel
- 2. Wearing a face mask helps to reduce community transmission of COVID-19.
  - Keep up-to-date with any changes such as localised outbreaks and follow advice and restrictions for your industry.
  - Ensure workers are provided with appropriate masks and know how to use and dispose of them correctly.
  - Instruct workers to carry a clean face mask with them at all times and wear it if it is mandatory to wear a mask or if they cannot maintain 1.5 metres of physical distance from others.

#### Face Masks in Certain Settings

- While masks are no longer mandated, students and staff will be encouraged to wear masks indoors and if they feel it assures their personal health and
  minimises their risk (this may be the case for those with underlying health vulnerabilities or who work in high volume, public facing areas of the
  University).
- The University will provide face masks which students and staff can obtain from Campus Security on each campus if they wish to wear them.
- The University will continue to communicate the need for masks to be worn when visiting hospitals or indoor care facilities.
- Students and staff required to attend a hospital, indoor care or specialist lab facility (health, disability, early childhood, animal house etc.) as part of their study or work must wear an appropriate or designated face mask. Instruction on how to appropriately fit these will be provided.
- FIT Testing of masks for students and staff on placement will be dependent upon specific placement provider's requirements. Different providers may have different requirements some requiring the FIT testing to be done at their facility others not so.
- Staff, students and research participants attending the following specialist laboratory spaces are required to wear masks:
  - o PC2 Labs both OGTR and internally certified (Footscray Park, Werribee and Sunshine Hospital/WCHRE)
  - Animal Facilities (Werribee)
  - Clinical spaces Sport and Exercise labs, Biomechanics.



## Strategy 4 – Continue to Practice Good Personal Hygiene

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

1. Soap and hand sanitiser should be available for all workers, visitors and customers throughout the worksite and encourage regular handwashing.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Provide hand washing facilities such as running water and soap. Provide alcohol-based hand sanitiser where hand washing facilities are not available.
- 2. Maintain good hygiene by encouraging workers to frequently wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.

#### **Accessible Hand Sanitiser and Soap**

- The University has deployed highly visible and accessible hand sanitiser stations across all its campuses and sites to ensure all students and staff have easy access when entering a building or workspace.
- All hygiene products used will meet the Australian Standards and Department of Health guidelines.
- Hand sanitiser is provided in teaching spaces, office, workshop and laboratory areas to encourage regular hand sanitising throughout the day.
- Our contracted cleaners are ensuring that adequate soap is available in all bathrooms. Posters have been displayed throughout the university showing the correct method of washing or sanitising hands.

### **Strategy 5 – Cleaning Regime**

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health rcommendations relating to Victoria University

1. Businesses should regularly <u>clean</u> shared spaces.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Avoid sharing equipment. Where this is not possible, such as with activity-based working or in lunchrooms, staff and students should ensure equipment is cleaned appropriately between users.
- 2. Ensure suitable cleaning equipment is provided and readily available.
- 3. Make sure your workplace is regularly cleaned and disinfected. see <u>Safe Work Australia cleaning and disinfecting guidance</u> for further information.



#### **Assuring Clean Campuses and Workspaces**

- Additional cleaning wipe dispensers are provided to allow staff and students to wipe down their furniture and equipment before and after work/study or exercise.
- VU has secured sufficient supply of all cleaning products and has increased the products held on site to manage peak demands.
- Inspections are undertaken to ensure the quality of the cleaning is maintained.

## Strategy 6 – Well-Ventilated Spaces

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. If businesses have natural ventilation available:
  - Open windows and leave doors open in hallways and corridors to increase outdoor airflow into the space.
- 2. If businesses have mechanical ventilation available:
  - · Maximise the amount of air being provided into the space where possible
  - Change the settings to increase the proportion of outdoor air recirculating in the space.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Limit the volume of recirculated air in ventilation or air conditioning systems and increase fresh air intake and natural air flow where possible.
- 2. Make contact with building owners and any businesses that share premises to discuss return to work plans to coordinate risk management such as heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) requirements, lift usage and shared break areas.

Read the <u>Safe Work Australia guide to improving ventilation</u> in indoor workplaces.



#### Safe and Health Spaces

- The University has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of all its spaces to ensure the ventilation systems are effectively providing sufficient outside air and do not represent an increased COVID transmission risk. VU is ensuring the ventilation systems are meeting or exceeding Australian Standard 1668.2 and regular monitoring and maintenance of these systems is in place.
- The ventilation systems supporting all central teaching spaces have been reviewed and where appropriate upgrades completed to ensure teaching can be conducted at normal room occupancy.

## **Strategy 7 – Positive Case Management**

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. A person who tests positive for COVID-19 should inform those they have recently been in contact with, including their worksplace or place of study.
- 2. It is strongly recommended that any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate for 5 days and not return to onsite work or study until they are no longer symptomatic.
- 3. It is strongly recommended that any person who has symptoms, but has not tested positive, should not attend their place of work or study until they are no longer symptomatic.
- 4. Workplaces are encouraged to support staff and students who have tested positive, or a sympotomatic, to work and study from home.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Tell the worker who has tested positive for COVID-19 to return home directly and follow the advice from NSW Health.
- 2. Advise workers and contractors of the situation in your workplace. Consult with workers about the identification and management of any remaining health and safety risks.

#### **Notifications and Reporting**

- Any person (students, staff, contractors or visitors) who have any COVID-19 symptoms should not attend campus.
- Any students or staff who have symptoms, should have received a negative RA Test result prior to returning to campus. \*If you are unwell, even if it is not COVID, consider the health of your peers/colleagues and do not attend campus whilst potentially infectious with any illness.
- Any person (students, staff, contractors or visitors) who has returned a positive COVID-19 test result should not attend campus within seven (7) days of
  date of the positive test or until symptoms have ended.



- Any person (students, staff, contractors or visitors) who had been on campus 48 hours before COVID symptoms started should notify their manager or course convener or university contact (for visitors).
- Any staff member that is aware of a person who has been on campus during their infectious period (see above dot point) should advise the COVID Team via coronavirus.response@vu.edu.au or via the webform.
- On campus COVID exposure sites from the last 7 days will be published on the staff <u>SharePoint</u> and <u>website</u>.
- Managers and academic staff may elect to send an email notifying individual/s of on campus COVID exposure sites.
- VU is providing free RA Tests to Students and Staff from and <u>Campus Security</u> Office
- VU will continue to monitor and report any cluster of cases that indicate an outbreak
- If a person is a close contact (someone in their household has returned a positive test), it is recommended that they undertake a RA Test prior to attending campus and wear a mask indoors even if they are asymptomatic.

### Strategy 8 - Future Ways of Working

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

1. There are no recommendations requiring Victorians to work or study from home. However, employers can consider working from home arrangements that are most appropriate for both their workplace and employees based on individual requirements.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health Requirements and Guidelines relating to Victoria University

1. Businesses and workers have a legal responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy workplace and manage the risks of COVID-19. Businesses can allow staff to work from home at their discretion.

#### The VU Model of Work

- In consultation with staff, VU has developed a flexible work model that continues to position the institution as a student-focused university but delivers benefits to the VU, teams and individuals. This model incorporates a mix of on-campus (60%) and work-from-home (40%) arrangements.
- Managers are working with their teams to work flexibly, continue the safe attendance on campus, and support staff through the pandemic.
- The University is ensuring appropriate HR procedures and resources are in place to support the implementation of the new way of working.
- Where a person has a medical condition which may leave them more susceptible to COVID-19 symptoms, they are encouraged to discuss suitable work
  arrangements with their manager. This is also the case to those who may have caring responsibilities for immune compromised or high COVID-19 risk
  individuals in their care.
- Events are undertaken in accordance with the Government recommendations.



### Strategy 9 - Vaccinations

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

1. Vaccination continues to be strongly recommended.

#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

- 1. Vaccination is a priority for everyone studying and training in NSW, which applies to Victoria University and VU Sydney.
- 2. Specific sectors including aged care, and disability may have vaccination requirements for workers.
- 3. Providers may consider whether a workplace policy about coronavirus vaccinations is necessary for their workplace.

#### Vaccination

- Victoria: Staff, students and visitors are no longer required to be vaccinated to attend campus. Vaccinations continues to be strongly recommended against all infectious diseases including COVID-19 and Influenza.
- NSW: Education Centre of Australia (ECA) have developed their own vaccination policy. VU Sydney staff are subject to this policy.

#### **Encouraging Vaccination and Boosters**

- The University will continue to collaborate with other stakeholders to provide easy access to pop-up vaccination clinics.
- Vaccination centres are established by the Department of Health and their partners. These centres operate in accordance with their policies and processes. These facilities may close without notice.
- Staff and students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated, noting that some clinical or work placements may require vaccination.

## Strategy 10 - Wellbeing

#### Victorian Government, WorkSafe and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

1. There are no obligations on employers. See Managing COVID-19 risks: Mental health at work.



#### NSW Government, SafeWork and Department of Health recommendations relating to Victoria University

1. There are no obligations on employers. See COVID-19 mental health at work resource kit.

#### **Access to Support Services**

- For staff, the University will continue to provide resources such as the <u>Wellness Hub</u> and the <u>Employee Assistance Program</u> to assure the wellbeing, health and safety of staff.
- For our students, there are a <u>range of services</u> available to students to support them through their wellbeing, health and safety.
- We will regularly review the resources available to support staff and student wellbeing, particularly with regards to COVID and the changing environment we work within. This includes supporting the rollout of a Mental Health First Air course for staff.



## **SECTION 4: Risk Assessment for COVID Safe Return to Campus**

| # Risk Category | Risk<br>Title                     | Risk<br>Description         | Cause/Threat   | Potential<br>Consequences  | Accountable<br>Officer                        | Current Mitigations  | Risk Rating  | Future Mitigations       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| 1 People        | People<br>Contracting<br>COVID-19 | COVID Positive Asymptomatic | COVID-19 in broader population     Reduction in restrictions under Victorian and NSW health orders     Increased numbers of students and staff attending campus. | Minimal direct personal risk     Can transmit to others in VU or other settings. | Peter Radoll,<br>DVC People &<br>Organisation | COVID Safe Practices (COVID Safe Plan)  Staff and students supported to work and study from home for the recommended 5-days self isolation  Staff and student provided education, information and updates on COVIDSafe information via the COVID-19 Resources for Staff SharePoint and VU response to COVID-19 website  Vaccination highly recommended and encouraged to staff and students  VU reporting protocols and contact tracing  On-campus COVID exposures listed on a publicly available 7-day spreadsheet  COVID Safe practices:  Mask wearing in settings where required (health; aged care etc.) and recommended | Likelihood: Likely  Consequence: Medium  Risk Rating: Medium | Continual review process |



- in all other indoor areas of the University.
- Physical distancing and voluntary mask wearing if physical distancing not possible
- Personal hygiene, provision of soap, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes
- Routine cleaning
- Provision of masks and RATs from Security
- Building ventilation and air quality monitoring
- Flexible work arrangements
- Pop-up vaccination hubs for staff, students and the community as made available through our partners
- Proactive COVID communication and management and active collaboration.



| # | Risk<br>Category | Risk<br>Title                     | Risk<br>Description        | Cause/Threat   | Potential<br>Consequences   | Accountable<br>Officer                        | Current Mitigations  | Risk Rating                                      | Future Mitigations       |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| 2 | People           | People<br>Contracting<br>COVID-19 | COVID Positive Symptomatic | COVID-19 in broader population Reduction in restrictions under Victorian and NSW health orders Increased numbers of students and staff attending campus. | Direct     personal risk     including     symptoms     (mild to     serious)     through to     hospitalization     and long     COVID     Can transmit     to others in     VU or other     settings. | Peter Radoll,<br>DVC People &<br>Organisation | COVID Safe practices (COVID Safe Plan)  Staff and students should not attend on campus if symptomatic  Staff and student provided education, information and updates via the COVID-19 Resources for Staff SharePoint and VU response to COVID-19 website.  Vaccination highly recommended and encouraged to staff and students  VU reporting protocols and contact tracing  On-campus COVID exposures listed on a publicly available 7-day spreadsheet  COVID Safe practices:  Recommendation of indoor mask wearing when on- campus  Mask wearing in settings where required (health. Aged care etc)  Physical distancing and voluntary mask wearing if physical distancing not possible  Personal hygiene, provision of soap, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes Routine cleaning | Likely  Consequence: Medium  Risk Rating: Medium | Continual review process |



| # | Risk<br>Category | Risk<br>Title                 | Risk<br>Description  | Cause/Threat                   | Potential<br>Consequences                          | Accountable<br>Officer                        | Current Mitigations  | Risk Rating                     | Future Mitigations |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|
|   |                  |                               |  |                                |  |   | <ul> <li>Building ventilation and air quality monitoring</li> <li>Flexible work arrangements</li> <li>Pop-up vaccination hubs for staff, students and the community as made available through our partners</li> <li>Proactive COVID communication and management and active collaboration.</li> <li>Provision of masks and RATs from Security</li> </ul> |                                 |                    |
| 3 | People           | Mental<br>Health &<br>Anxiety | Maintaining<br>the mental<br>health of staff<br>and students | COVID-19 in broader population | <ul> <li>Potential mental health injury</li> </ul> | Peter Radoll,<br>DVC People &<br>Organisation | Ongoing flexible work<br>arrangements instituted   | Likelihood: Likely Consequence: |                    |

Medium



and students

| # | Risk<br>Category | Risk<br>Title                   | Risk<br>Descriptio<br>n         | Cause/Threat  | Potential<br>Consequences   | Accountable<br>Officer                                 | Current Mitigations   | Risk Rating  | Future Mitigations |
|---|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------|
|   |                  |                                 |                                 | Anxiety about return to campus     Changes in attitudes and expectations re work/life balance     Academic progress impacted.   | Increased unsociable behaviour     Increased absenteeism.                                 |  | <ul> <li>Exemptions provided for vulnerable staff and students</li> <li>Employee Assistance available to staff</li> <li>Student support services available for students including welfare and financial support</li> <li>Academic special consideration measures in place for students, where required</li> <li>Proactive COVID communication and management and active collaboration.</li> </ul> | Risk Rating:<br>Medium                                       |                    |
| 4 | People           | Student<br>Campus<br>Experience | Poor campus student  experience | Staff/Student dissonance re return to campus.     Student preferences & experience no longer prioritised     Campus vibrancy and activation low due to poor staff presence. | Poor student experience     Impact on student load     Impact on financial sustainability | John Germov,<br>DVC HE<br>Dianne<br>Semmens,<br>DVC VE | COVID Safe practices (COVID Safe Plan)  Staff and student provided education, information and updates on the SharePoint for staff, via staff sessions and VU website.   | Likelihood: Likely  Consequence: Medium  Risk Rating: Medium |                    |



| # | Risk<br>Category | Risk<br>Title           | Risk<br>Description               | Cause/Threat  | Potential<br>Consequences  | Accountable<br>Officer                        | Current Mitigations   | Risk Rating  | Future Mitigations |
|---|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|--------------------|
| 5 | People           | Industrial<br>Relations | Staff Safety<br>and<br>Compliance | Staff refuse to return to campus     Staff fail to comply with COVID Safe Plan whilst on campus | Potential loss of talent due to non-compliance     Industrial challenges | Peter Radoll,<br>DVC People &<br>Organisation | Manager resources and support to deal with:  Vulnerable staff Return to campus hesitancy  Ongoing flexible work arrangements instituted  Providing staff the opportunity to be vaccinated with on campus vaccination hub or access to DoH vaccination clinics as made available through our partners.  P&C assessing each individual case on its merits to ensure that a staff member who has not complied with the requirements to return to campus can make an informed choice/decision  Staff provided education, information and updates COVID Resources SharePoint site.  Proactive COVID communication and management and active collaboration. | Likelihood: Likely  Consequence: Medium  Risk Rating: Medium |                    |



| # Risk<br>Category | Risk<br>Title                          | Risk<br>Description  | Cause/Threat  | Potential<br>Consequences  | Accountable<br>Officer                    | Current Mitigations  | Risk Rating   | Future Mitigations   |
|--------------------|--|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 6 People           | Student<br>Demand<br>and<br>Experience | Impact on<br>Reputation<br>and the<br>Viability of the<br>University | Staff/Student dissonance re return to campus.     Student preferences and experience no longer prioritised     Campus vibrancy and activation low due to poor staff presence. | Poor student experience     High levels of student attrition (current students)     Poor demand for courses compared with competitors providing greater in person experience (prospective students)     Impact on student load which translates to revenue challenges.     Revenue declines with organisational impacts. | Adam<br>Shoemaker,<br>Vice-<br>Chancellor | In person learning<br>supported by COVID<br>Safe practices | Likelihood: Unlikely Consequence: Major Risk Rating: Medium | Communication plan<br>to convey to<br>stakeholders we are<br>'open for business' |



## **APPENDIX A: A COVID Safe Transition to Campus**

Our transition to campus does not mean that the University will return to pre-COVID-19 conditions – a range of COVID Safe measures remain in place. The University determines changes in status level and communicates them accordingly.

LEVEL E

CAMPUS CLOSED

LEVEL D

## CAMPUS CLOSED ESSENTIAL ACCESS ONLY

Campuses are closed to staff, students and visitors. All campus activities must be conducted remotely except for essential and approved activities.

Any on-campus activity requires senior management approval and completion of the COVID-19 Safe Checklist.

LEVEL C

### RESTRICTED ACCESS – PRIORITY TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Students who are due to complete their studies (e.g. assessment tasks, face-to-face, lab/practical) can access campus with approval.

Staff and students with internet, computer access, safety or wellbeing issues at home can access campus with approval.

Any on-campus activity requires senior management approval and completion of the COVID-19 Safe Checklist.

LEVEL B

## OPEN WITH RESTRICTIONS

Staff and students are permitted to transition to campus.

COVID-19 safety requirements will continue to be in place.

LEVEL A

CAMPUS OPEN

IF YOU CAN WORK FROM HOME, YOU MUST WORK FROM HOME.

For further information contact: coronavirus.response@vu.edu.au

















## **APPENDIX B: Transition to Campus Roadmap**



## **W** VU ROADMAP 2022

We encourage all VU students and staff to get vaccinated, so our campuses can be as inclusive and safe as possible.

#### **Phase** A

#### **Phase** В

#### Phase C

#### Phase D

#### October - December 2021

- · All staff fully vaccinated by 26 November
- · Continue to work from home if you can, or can work on-campus if fully vaccinated and a VU permit has been approved by supervisor
- On-campus learning for hands on, lab or skills-based learning, if students are at least partially vaccinated, otherwise continue to learn from home

#### **Campus Operations**

- · Masks required indoors and
- · VUHQ and libraries gradually reopened
- · Childcare open to all from 26 Oct
- · Gym and pool reopened, subject to restrictions
- · Gradual reopening of food, beverage and retail, subject to restrictions and summer hours.

#### From January 2022

- All staff, students and visitors attending, working or studying on campus are required to be fully vaccinated
- Gradual return of on-campus activity, with priority for essential activities, as each block commenced.

#### Campus Operations

- Gradual return of all campus operations
- Mask requirement and density limits gradually removed in line with Government advice.

#### From April 2022

- All staff, students and visitors attending, working or studying on campus are required to be fully vaccinated
- Alignment with the Government public health orders
- Flexible work model guidelines activated from 26 April: 60% working on campus with 40% flexibility

#### Campus Operations

- Activities timetabled on campus and in person must be delivered on campus and in person
- Full return of all campus operations (as per normal academic calendar year).

#### From July 2022

- · Staff, student and visitor vaccinations no longer mandated to attend campus
- · Alignment with the Government public health orders
- · Staff working on campus minimum 60% per week

#### Campus Operations

- · Masks wearing recommended indoors
- · Vaccination strongly recommended, including fourth vaccination and Influenza A
- · Full return of all campus operations (as per normal academic calendar year).

