



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

UOM COVIDSafe Plan

The University of Melbourne
4 December 2023

Introduction

The Victorian government concluded the declared Pandemic Order on 12 October 2022. Subsequently all emergency Health Orders made in accordance with Pandemic Order expired. The Victorian Department of Health and the Victorian Department of Education and Training published guidance for COVID risk management for individuals, workplaces, and education settings effective 13 October 2022. On 30 June 2023 the Victorian Government removed the optional reporting mechanism to the Department of Health for positive COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test results.

This revised COVIDSafe Plan acknowledges the substantive change in regulatory settings in Victorian and aligns with current government guidance.

The revised COVIDSafe Plan sets out the University's transition to managing these risks under the Occupational Health and Safety management system, including UoM Health and Safety Policy, Health and Safety Responsibilities and Legal Requirements and Health and Safety Risk Management Requirements and Health and Safety Risk Register. The objects of the COVIDSafe plan are to help keep our community healthy, minimise the impacts of illness on campus whilst supporting a vibrant and productive on-campus working and learning environment.

The revised COVIDSafe plan sets out the University's staged transition to alignment with Victorian government guidance.

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1. Processes to respond to any presence in the work premises of symptomatic person or confirmed case

COVID contacts:

COVID contacts (including Close Contacts and Social Contacts) should follow the government recommendations and precautions at the time.

Additional risk controls may apply for student accommodation, childcare, healthcare settings, and other areas as identified by local risk assessment.

Local areas should consider supports for [people at higher risk of severe illness](#) in accordance with the University's processes for reasonable adjustments for staff and students.

Confirmed cases or symptomatic persons:

- Any person should test at the first sign of symptoms
- Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 is strongly encouraged to isolate in accordance with government recommendations. The person should stay away from campus for that period, and not return to on-site work or study until they are no longer symptomatic
- Any person who tests positive is strongly recommended to return a negative RAT before attending campus or any sensitive settings
- 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
- The University will support people to stay away from campus when unwell (in accordance with University's support process for staff and students)
- Strongly recommend students and staff advise their COVID contacts (Close Contacts and Social Contacts)

Reporting and supporting:

Additional risk controls may apply for sensitive settings at the University.

Any person who has tested positive should follow the advice set out on the website:

unimelb.edu.au/coronavirus/testing-and-notification

Local areas should consider supports for [people at higher risk of severe illness](#) in accordance with the University's processes for reasonable adjustments.

2. Actions taken to mitigate the introduction of COVID-19 at the work premises

In response to potential risks identified across the University, the following controls have been implemented to reduce the risk so far as is reasonably practicable.

2a. Vaccination

The University strongly encourages everyone to remain up to date with vaccinations for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, such as influenza.

A requirement for vaccination applies for hospitals and other specified healthcare settings as outlined by the [Department of Health](#) Secretary Directions.

Where students or staff are working, visiting or undertaking placements in host workplaces, they may be required to meet any host organisation vaccination requirements.

There are some limited exceptions to the Department of Health Secretary Directions vaccination requirements.

2b. Indoor air quality

The University has implemented a range of measures to support improved air quality, including:

- Maximising outside air intake for mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Deploying CO₂ sensors for all teaching spaces
- Deploying CO₂ sensors for each occupied level of every building
- Windows made operable where possible
- Installation of air purifiers in select spaces where required

i. Monitoring

The University uses CO₂ levels as a proxy for the effectiveness of ventilation in an occupied building.

CO₂ monitors are installed in each teaching space to monitor the effectiveness of the ventilation system during building occupancy.

CO₂ monitors are installed on each floor level in every occupied building.

Monitoring is managed electronically by a central team. Action is taken based on this remote monitoring by a specialist response team.

Over 1,500 CO₂ monitors have been installed and are operational in a range of locations.

ii. Response

The University's Service Centre is available to provide more details on ventilation assessment activities for particular buildings. Response procedures have been established to respond to locations where additional action is required.

2c. Physical Distancing

People are encouraged wherever possible to maintain a physical distance of 1.5m between themselves and others

2d. Hygiene, cleaning, and waste management

i. Hygiene

Hand sanitising stations are placed throughout facilities and rooms across campuses.

Handwashing facilities including hand soap, running water and single-use paper towel or hand dryers are available in toilets, change facilities and laboratories.

Hand hygiene signage and reminders are posted around campus.

ii. Cleaning and disinfection

The University's cleaning contracts require all cleaning duties to be conducted in accordance with the Department of Health COVID-19 cleaning guidelines as found at the following link:

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/>

Disinfectant wipes are available for staff, students and visitors to disinfect high-touch areas and items between uses.

Local SOPs for high touch point cleaning where routine cleaning services are locally arranged.

Training modules include instruction and information about cleaning and disinfection.

iii. Waste

Waste disposal facilities are available on the grounds and in buildings including eating areas, offices, toilets, change facilities and laboratories.

Training modules include information and guidance about disposal of used consumables, including tissues and face masks.

2e. Local risk management

In addition to the university-wide controls, local areas with unique work activities and work practices that may alter the level of risk of exposure to COVID-19 should undertake a risk assessment, in accordance with the health and safety risk management requirements, including the consideration of relevant risk control measures that may be implemented to control the local risk.

3. Appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn at the work premises

3a. Face Masks

The University continues to provide access to face masks on campus.

Face masks are welcome in all settings for continued personal and community safety. Signage confirming face masks are welcome is displayed around campus.

P2 or equivalent masks must be worn by staff and students attending areas of campus or undertaking an activity where it is required by local risk assessment. Signage is displayed in locations where face masks are required by local risk assessment. Masks are provided by local areas in accordance with Health and Safety Personal Protective Equipment procedures, where required.

Face masks are strongly recommended for people who are at a higher risk of adverse outcomes to COVID-19.

3b. Other Personal Protective Equipment

Local risk assessments may require other PPE, including face shields, aprons and/or gloves.

Local risk assessment may include location-specific information about local PPE requirements including availability, training, instruction, and guidance.