

19 July 2021 9.21pm

## All staff email from Professor Allan Evans, Acting Vice-Chancellor

Colleagues

You will have seen the news late this afternoon about new restrictions in the State as a result of a rise in COVID-19 cases. While the formal directions (these give the necessary detail about the full extent of these restriction) have yet to be released, I want to let you know how the University will respond based on the information currently at-hand. Of course, things can change rapidly. I would ask that you monitor your e-mails and also visit the University webpage which will contain updates and FAQs. But for now, we offer the following:

The University, as an essential service, remains open and University teaching and research can continue. It is important that wherever possible we support our core activities and we minimise any unnecessary disruption to our students.

Nevertheless, there will need to be some modifications to our operations this week, as summarised below:

### Teaching and Research

- Teaching can continue with appropriate social distancing arrangements. Our interpretation of current rules mean that masks are not required on campus or in office spaces unless social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Student placements can continue unless otherwise determined by the placement provider.
- Research activity can also continue with appropriate social distancing and/or PPE where required. If the research activity requires engagement with the public, then suitable adjustments to arrangements may be required and in some cases the research may need to be postponed. This will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- O-Week social activities will be cancelled and program information sessions will be provided online where possible, or postponed until other arrangements are made.
- The University library and other learning spaces will remain open, with appropriate adjustments made to accommodate changes in social distancing requirements.

### On campus Events, Gyms and Galleries

- The Hawke Centre, Samstag, the Planetarium, Architecture Museum and MOD will be closed for this week.
- University gyms, and UniSASport activity, will be closed
- All public events, including campus tours, will be cancelled.

### Campus Outlets

- If they are to continue operating, campus food outlets will need to move to outdoor dining and/or takeaway operations. Operators will need to make suitable adjustments.

### Campus Facilities and Services

- Campus Central will remain open, so that support for our students can continue
- Counselling and other services will move to virtual engagement where possible but will otherwise be available on campus.
- The University medical clinic will remain open.

## Staff work-from-home and travel arrangements

- As mentioned above, the University remains open, with teaching and research continuing. However, where individual staff members are able to perform their duties by working from home, and where they have a work from home arrangement formalised with their supervisor, they are encouraged to do so. Staff who intend to work from home should consult their line manager and update their work from home documentation as soon as possible. The University will remain open and will continue to support staff to attend for work and there is certainly no obligation to work from home.
- All domestic travel (within state and outside state) should be postponed this week unless deemed essential in consultation with line management.

I appreciate that these restrictions will require some quick adjustment across our community and I thank everyone in advance for their cooperation and collaboration. The University has weathered this past year or more with its usual flexibility and responsiveness and I know we will continue to demonstrate the strength and collegiality of our community.

There will of course be likely changes and adjustments made over coming days and we will continue to communicate with staff and students as often as possible. We are not in a position yet to answer all questions, but I hope the information above gives some clarity around immediate matters. I encourage all our community to maintain the new norm of 'social distancing' and good hygiene practice. Of course, if you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms please do not attend the University and get tested as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your patience, commitment...and endurance.

Regards