

20 July 2021 9.15am

All student email from Professor Allan Evans, Acting Vice-Chancellor

Dear students,

You will have seen the news late yesterday about new restrictions in South Australia as a result of a rise in COVID-19 cases. While the formal directions (which give the necessary detail about the full extent of these restrictions) 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. Please monitor your myUniSA student e-mail and also visit the University webpage which contains 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. We are committed to minimising any unnecessary disruption to our students.

Nevertheless, there will need to be some modifications to our operations this week, and the following summary has been sent to staff:

Teaching and Research

- Online teaching will continue as normal. Face-to-face teaching can also continue with appropriate physical distancing arrangements. Our interpretation of current rules mean that masks are not required on campus or in office spaces unless physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Student placements can continue unless otherwise determined by the placement provider.
- Research activity can continue with appropriate physical 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 the pool will be closed, and UniSASport activity will be cancelled.
- 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.

There will, of course, be likely changes and adjustments made over coming days and we will continue to communicate 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.

Regards