

March 6, 3.17 pm

All staff email from Jane Booth, UniSA Executive Director; People Talent and Culture

Colleagues, you will have observed the increased attention to COVID-19 globally as well as in Australia. While there are relatively few cases in Australia at this point, it is obvious that SA Health and the Australian Health system are taking this very seriously, as is UniSA.

For your information, students and staff may be tested and asked to self-isolate by SA Health if they have been on a plane or in a gathering and in close proximity to someone subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19. In a large multi-cultural campus like ours we can also expect that students or staff with any 'flu-like' symptoms may be asked to self-isolate by their GP, and any testing will be for both regular 'flu' and COVID-19. These are not a cause for alarm: they are standard public health procedures and part of keeping the broader community safe.

If testing or isolation is required, this is advised by a medical professional and reported to SA Health who will track and trace contacts if someone is diagnosed. UniSA is supporting staff and students in accordance with SA Health Communicable Disease Control Branch instructions regarding the requirements for self-isolation and case tracing.

Please maintain positive professional contact with your colleagues and students - both research degree candidates and coursework students – no matter where they are - and accommodate those who need to self-isolate or wait for test results to be cleared to return to class.

For your own health and safety, please continue to maintain good health practices and consult the [FAQs](#). We are increasing the accessibility of hand sanitizer units – and reminding all students and staff that the World Health Organisation advises the following measures:

- Frequent and thorough handwashing
- Maintaining at least one metre of separation between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Protecting others with respiratory hygiene techniques (e.g. coughing into your elbow or using a tissue that you immediately dispose of)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands

If you have 'flu-like' symptoms (fever, coughing, and/or difficulty breathing), contact your GP. If you know other staff or students are unwell, advise them to go home and phone their GP practice and explain their flu symptoms when seeking an appointment.

Further information on COVID-19 is also available at the [Department of Health and Wellbeing](#) website.

If you have any questions, please contact your local [People, Talent and Culture Business Partner](#) or [Rickie Kelly](#) Senior Consultant, WHS if you have a staff related question.

Students can continue to contact seu@unisa.edu.au for assistance, advice and support. Staff may also contact seu@unisa.edu.au if they have any questions or concerns regarding a student's health or wellbeing.