

COVID Safe Plan

Business name:	Monash University
Site location:	All campuses and Monash locations
Contact person:	Peter Marshall COO
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Introduction

The health and safety of the Monash community is the highest priority. Monash is committed to protecting the Monash community from the transmission of COVID-19. The World Health Organization has recently declared that COVID-19, while remaining a significant global health threat, is no longer classified as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

This shift signifies a crucial development, as COVID-19 is now an established and ongoing health issue. As such, it is important for our community to transition from emergency mode to the long-term management of COVID-19, treating it in parallel with other infectious diseases. Version 34 of the University's COVID safe plan recognises that, whilst COVID-19 remains a public health concern in the community, the risk has significantly reduced with the strong uptake of vaccines in the population, the introduction of antivirals for at risk groups infected with COVID-19 and the application of sensible precautions in the community.

The Monash COVID Safe Plan has been developed under the direction of the Monash Chief Medical Officer and outlines a set of practical infection control measures and it remains a key tool in our continued response.

Come to Campus Well

Communication

- Consistent with the Government's health messaging Monash continues to communicate to all staff, students, contractors and visitors to only attend Monash University locations, including campuses and offices, if they are well.
- All persons attending Monash University locations including staff, students, contractors and visitors are expected to continually monitor themselves for symptoms.

Absence from University

- Various leave provisions (i.e. sick leave, special paid leave and isolation leave) may be available to staff to cover approved absences due to COVID-19 related illnesses in accordance with the criteria detailed in the COVID-19 Staff Guidelines and Enterprise Agreement, <https://www.intranet.monash/hr/policies-and-agreements/covid-19/COVID-19-Staff-Guidelines-10.02.2023.pdf>
- For students, if they are unable to attend their scheduled classes, the Chief Examiner will make the necessary learning arrangements, including access to class resources that they may miss through Moodle (including, where possible, access to Zoom links for online classes). If students are unable to attempt or complete their assessments due to illness, they can apply for [Special Consideration](#). If a student is isolating due to COVID-19, they can apply for [special arrangements](#) to sit their final assessment remotely.

Rapid Antigen Tests

- Using a risk assessment approach, rapid antigens tests (RATs) will be provided by the University to support staff and students participating in university activities and ensure the risk of the spread of COVID 19 is minimized. For example, RATS will be provided to field trip activities in remote areas to ensure testing can be quickly undertaken if anyone becomes unwell when on the field trip.

Face coverings

- Face coverings may continue to be required in specific settings including health and aged care and environments where people may be more vulnerable to COVID-19. Staff and students engaged in these environments should follow the direction of the host organisation.
- Face coverings are no longer compulsory on campus. Face coverings may be worn in all indoor settings and when travelling on University transport (inter-campus buses, shared Monash vehicles) if the individual chooses to do so.
- Face coverings are recommended to be worn by persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test when they attend a Monash work location.
- As an infection control measure outlined in a local risk assessment, face masks may be required to be worn for specific University activities.
- Monash University may require the use of face coverings in certain settings where this is endorsed by the Monash University Chief Medical Officer or their Deputy.

Practice good personal hygiene

- Monash University continues to promote regular hand washing or hand sanitising. Hand sanitiser stations are available across campuses to ensure staff and students have opportunity to hand sanitise when entering a building.
- The University cleaning team is ensuring adequate soap is available in all bathrooms, with a method provided to dry hands.
- Posters may be displayed in bathrooms, lunch areas and above hand sanitiser stations showing the correct method of washing or sanitising hands.
- Cough etiquette posters and information are provided in University buildings to promote people to cough into a tissue or their elbow and away from nearby people.

Well ventilated spaces

- The University has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of all of its buildings to ensure the ventilation systems are effectively providing sufficient outside air and do not represent an increased COVID transmission risk.
- Monash is ensuring the ventilation systems are meeting or exceeding Australian Standard 1668.2 and regular monitoring and maintenance of the 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.
- The outcomes of the ventilation review are available on the Monash COVID Safe website.
https://www.monash.edu/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/2859156/Monash-COVID-Safe-Plan-ventilation-bldg-list.pdf

Campus Cleaning

- The routine cleaning of the University buildings will continue to focus on the cleaning of high touch surfaces and contact points.
- Commercial cleaners containing soap or detergent are effective in reducing germ presence on surfaces, thereby mitigating infection risks. Cleaning alone can eliminate most harmful germs, including viruses, bacteria, parasites, or fungi. Therefore, the routine use of alcohol wipes for equipment and furniture is no longer necessary.

Vaccinations

- COVID 19 vaccination is recommended for all persons attending a Monash University location. Staff located within a healthcare setting and students on placement in a healthcare setting must comply with the COVID-19 vaccination direction of the host organisation.

6 August 2020

5 July 2023

Original Date

Modified Date