

Dear Student,

As you would be aware, on Sunday 2 August, the Victorian Government, made a series of significant announcements, in line with advice from the Chief Health Officer about restrictions to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19):

1. From 6pm on Sunday 2 August, Stage 4 restrictions will be in place across metropolitan Melbourne.
2. From 11:59pm on Wednesday 5 August, Stage 3 restrictions will be in place throughout regional Victoria.
3. Mitchell Shire will remain in Stage 3 restrictions.

These announcements will mean that TAFEs, registered training organisations, Learn Locals and Universities in metropolitan Melbourne will operate differently to those in regional Victoria.

The changes described in this message will come into effect from 11.59pm on Wednesday 5 August and will remain in place for 6 weeks.

Education remains a reason to leave your home only where necessary. Stage 4 restrictions are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the state.

This will impact many AITAC students and we will support you through the coming days and weeks to ensure as little disruption to your study as possible.

If not already, all course delivery must now move to remote learning except for critical teaching and research activities that require face-to-face learning. Exceptions are outlined below.

### **Exemptions:**

Face-to-face teaching and assessment will continue at AITAC for some courses. Face-to-face teaching and assessment is permitted at AITAC where it cannot be delivered remotely or online, and is in qualifications or credentials related to key occupations and activities.

As we service key occupations such as construction, transport, aviation, mining and associated support sectors, we are able to provide face-to-face training until it is available online.

This includes assessments for safe working practices, practical student support, and associated physical training.

On-site attendance is also permitted where the activity cannot be done remotely, and the purpose is to provide practical student support, where this cannot be done remotely.

Many of our courses include pre-course distance learning material which must be completed prior to attending training at our premises, or onsite.

We are working hard to arrange online learning in the near future for as many of our activities as possible, but in the meantime this requires face-to-face support for students.

Students who are permitted to travel for study can travel more than 5 kilometres from their home for this purpose.

**Students must adhere to the 8pm – 5am curfew when travelling for study.**

For those courses that are exempted, physical distancing and infection control measures must be strictly followed.

Face coverings, regardless of where you live in Victoria, are now mandatory for people aged over 12. You are required to wear a face covering while at, and when travelling to AITAC premises.

Your teachers will be in touch regarding your course delivery – whether you are in an exempted class or not.

I understand this news will be challenging for many of you, but these steps have been identified as critical measures to protect us all.

I want to assure you we are doing everything we can to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of our whole learning community.

More information regarding COVID-19 is available on the [DET website](#), which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

Thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

JIM BORLE

AITAC

5 August 2020

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