

1st August 2022 3.57pm

All staff email from Professor David G. Lloyd, Vice-Chancellor and President

COVID-19 management update

I have recently received correspondence from the Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, providing specific updated information for the higher education sector. Professor Spurrier's communication was in the context of an expected peak in numbers of infections by COVID-19 variants Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 in our community.

UniSA takes the safety and well-being of our staff and students most seriously, and I re-iterate our call for all staff and students to avail of full vaccination against COVID-19 infection and encourage those now eligible for a fourth vaccine dose to take it up as soon as possible. Such measures will significantly reduce the risk of hospitalisation and severe disease.

Professor Spurrier has recommended a range of other risk mitigation measures, many of which the University has already had in place for some time now, including ventilation measures, physical distancing, cleaning and hygiene measures, remote working supports and of course, voluntarily absenting oneself from the campus wherever an individual has any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, and getting tested.

Prof Spurrier's recommendations additionally include mask wearing in shared spaces and moving to online meetings and teaching activities wherever possible.

Accordingly, acting on this health advice:

- **We are re-introducing the requirement for mask wearing in all shared indoor spaces on all UniSA campuses.**
- **Wherever teaching or research activities require in person or face to face delivery, mask wearing is required.**
- **Wherever teaching or research activities can be conducted online, they should be delivered online.**
- **Where practical, meetings should be conducted using zoom or teams.**

These measures will be in place and under review until such time as SA case numbers significantly subside. As before, facemasks will be available for staff and students from Campus Central hubs and FM Assist.

It's regrettable that we find ourselves having to re-adopt these precautions, but they are our best lines of defence to reduce the impact of the current variants.

As always, I ask that you look out for each other, stay well, and take care.

With best regards