

04 February 2022 1:08pm

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

Dear colleagues,

It's now a little over two years since our national borders first closed in an attempt to quell Covid-19 transmission, and we are still writing emails about how best to manage our operations in the shadow of the virus – would that this was otherwise! This communication is, thankfully, one of reducing restriction rather than prescribing additional disruption to how we interact with one another.

Our priority, as always, is to deliver high-quality on-campus experiences for our students and a safe and inclusive working environment for us all – where we can connect to one another as colleagues and as a community. As you're aware, we had previously signalled that certain flexible working arrangements and a preference for online provision of education (teaching, learning and research) would be in effect until March 31st.

We are very cognisant of the impact such sustained measures would have on commencing and returning domestic and international students and their UniSA experience, particularly as we approach Orientation. Accordingly, and coincident with SA's diminishing case load, high vaccination rates, and the return to schooling now underway for primary and secondary levels, **we are at a point where we can revise these provisions**, with the following 'return to campus' measures.

From Monday 14th February, our flexible work provision is being adjusted to up to 40%.

Our expectation is that from Monday 14th February, **staff will physically present for work, on campus, for at least 60% of their working hours**. Where you can carry out your duties remotely or from home, have the appropriate line management approvals in place, and should you choose to do so, you will still have the flexibility to work remotely, for up to 40% of your working hours. In all instances, you should discuss your personal circumstances with your line manager.

Lectures will remain in online delivery mode, with all other teaching, learning and research activities transitioning back to our previously established 'Covid-safe' face-to-face on-campus delivery modes, ready for the commencement of SP2 (or as soon as practicable if temporary arrangements up to 31st March have already been formalised and communicated to student cohorts).

Students will be advised of any applicable changes through separate communication, coordinated by SAS and informed by each Academic Unit.

Public events may now be held on campus in line with approved Covid-19 management plans.

Where you are required to carry out your duties from an on-campus location, all applicable Covid-19 management protocols will be in effect. UniSA ID swipe card access will no longer be required to enter common facilities, but the use of the SafeZone app is still encouraged.

All staff, students and visitors will still be required to wear facemasks in all indoor communal university settings – including all indoor public, shared or open plan office or administrative areas, meeting, library, laboratory, teaching, learning and research facilities. Facemasks (Detmold level 3 surgical grade) will continue to be made available for all staff and students from Campus Central hubs and FM Assist.

These changes are commensurate with our commitment to recognising the endemic nature of the virus, mirroring those enacted in the wider general community, and are central to us normalising our reaction to its occurrence in our population. We will continue to manage Covid-19 in accordance with all applicable health regulations and advice, and as we would any other communicable illness that may occur within a population as large and diverse as the university community.

These arrangements are expected to be in place until state-wide requirements are further significantly modified, and, as always, we will continue to adapt to the external environment as appropriate. It is also my intent that this new (up to 40% remote) level of workplace flexibility arrangements can be more formally assessed and formulated into an ongoing policy position within the University.

Remember, if you feel unwell, you should not present for work on-campus. Please do look after yourselves and one another, and please do ensure you are fully vaccinated. Thank you once again for your understanding and patience as we navigate these changing times.

With best regards,