

11 May, 3.24pm

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

Dear Colleagues and Students,

I'm loath to fill up your in-boxes with more messages pertaining to COVID-19, but I do want to provide you with some additional information. As you're aware, the Federal and State Governments are now advancing the cautious easing of a number of existing restrictions over the coming weeks and months. There have been a number of references made to a return to face-to-face activities in universities as part of this easing.

As you're aware, your health and well-being are of paramount concern to us as we look to adopt the latest national and local health advice during the management of this pandemic. You'll also be aware that the complex transition to working and learning remotely required significant planning and logistical management to deliver successfully. We are all very mindful of the potential for a second wave of infection and must take all reasonable precautions to guard against that possibility, even as we strive for a return to more 'normal' research, teaching and working arrangements.

While I know that many of you are understandably very keen to return to campus, rather than take this next critical step in haste, we intend to appropriately risk assess and carefully plan UniSA's staged transition back to on-campus activities.

To that end, we will publish and circulate a roadmap for this next transition on Monday 18th May. In this documentation we will detail our thinking and our timelines and approach for a staged, safe return to on-campus activities.

As you know, our campuses have remained accessible to students and our learning centres and computer facilities are being well used. We have also recently indicated that where possible, labs, practicals, studios and workshops can be undertaken face to face with appropriate physical distancing arrangements and over the coming weeks we expect these activities to increase. Students will be advised of such arrangements by their course coordinators and program directors.

In the meantime, I remind you that all lectures and tutorials remain online and that WHS protocols are in place for research activities for the remainder of SP2 – up until Saturday 4 July.

Your support and patience during these trying times have been immense and are hugely appreciated. You'll similarly appreciate that this next phase of management is critical, and one which we must manage properly. With a little more patience and perhaps just a little luck, we will start getting things back to normal soon.