

30 July 2021 12.28pm

All staff email from Professor Allan Evans, Acting Vice-Chancellor

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for your cooperation and support this week as the University has transitioned out of lockdown and navigated the implications of the current restrictions. Understandably, there has been uncertainty as we respond to the health advice and seek to do all we can to support each other and the community in the implementation of the new health guidelines.

Thankfully, we haven't seen any new cases of community transmission and we are now looking optimistically to next week.

Our campuses are now open to staff and students and teaching is able to increasingly transition back to 'pre-lockdown' arrangements. Program directors and course coordinators are asked to communicate with students about any specific local arrangements.

Despite the positive developments, we have decided that our current 'work from home advice', as issued in my email from Tuesday this week, will continue for one more week.

Where staff can perform their duties from home, and they have an approved work from home arrangement with their line manager, they are encouraged to continue to do so until Friday 6 August. It is anticipated that we will be able to return to 'pre-lockdown' work arrangements from Monday 9 August (though use of masks is likely to continue for a while longer) but of course we will be tracking developments very carefully and we will provide further advice about future work from home arrangements as the status and duration of the overall State restrictions become clearer.

For staff working on campus, swipe card access will still be required next week for all university buildings to limit access to members of the public and enable tracking of the movements of individuals in the event this becomes necessary.

When I wrote to you earlier this week, based on the information available at the time, a significant change was the focus on masks and we have had a number of queries on when they should be worn, and when they are not required. Our [staff FAQs](#) have now been updated and you can find more detailed information on the website following release of more information by SA Health.

In line with the government advice to wear masks to limit potential spread, we do ask staff and students to bring their own masks to campus, so that they are prepared for those instances when they are required, such as across the University's public spaces. We also ask students to wear masks in face-to-face classes, where it is safe and practical to do so (bearing in mind that there will be instances where masks cannot be worn as they will interfere with the learning activity).

Inevitably, personal judgements will need to be made and there are instances where masks are not required, such as in the case of those delivering teaching, where there are health reasons and in office environments that are not engaging with the public. This detail is outlined in our FAQs and the SA Health website. I know that as a University, and wider community, this new requirement will take some adjustment and I thank you in advance for your collaboration and tolerance as we all adapt to this new normal for the time being.

A limited number of masks are available from Campus Central and Security offices in the event some staff or students do not have their own with them.

Again, thank you for your continued cooperation as we respond to the new requirements. I genuinely appreciate the massive effort you have been making, and will continue to make, to navigate ongoing uncertainty. I am particularly keen to ensure that we support our students the best we can, minimising any unnecessary disruptions to their studies.

Further information will be provided to staff and students as more information is available regarding the current restrictions, and we anticipate that will be mid-late next week.

With kind regards,