



## ANU COVID-Safe Plan for Teaching Activities

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Risks associated with face-to-face teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic vary depending on the prevalence of the disease in the community. During times of low prevalence (represented by Low Risk or 'green' on the ANU Campus Alert System), the risk of a positive case is low, as is the spread of disease to other individuals, however the risk increases with higher prevalence, particularly during COVID-19 outbreaks. This is especially true for 20 to 29 year olds as the prevalence of COVID-19 is higher in these age groups.

For this reason, a robust risk-based approach utilising a hierarchy of controls is required to ensure that staff and students are as safe as reasonably practicable while operating in a teaching environment. This means the following at the various Campus Alert Levels:

- **Low risk** – face to face teaching with an emphasis on COVID-safe behaviours and general risk mitigation strategies listed below
- **Medium risk** – face to face teaching can continue but additional mitigators may be required in accordance with ACT Health restrictions (e.g. capacity limits, mandatory mask wearing) or as determined by a formal Work Health and Safety Hazard and Risk Assessment (e.g. mandatory vaccination; use of high efficacy face masks).
- **High risk** – treated risk may remain high despite application of mitigators, therefore remote learning is required

This Plan is to be read in conjunction with the ANU COVID-safe Guidelines 2022 and ACT Health guidelines and directions. It provides overarching guidance on the types of controls that could be applied to mitigate risk, a formal Work Health and Safety Hazard and Risk Assessment is required to determine their applicability in each type of setting.

### Behavioural Mitigators

Creation of a COVID-safe environment is crucial to maintaining a safe work environment during a pandemic. This behaviour is underpinned by a culture in which every individual behaves in a COVID-safe manner.

Signature behaviours include:

- Do not come to work or the classroom if you have any COVID-19 like symptoms or are required to isolate due to being a high-risk exposure.
- Keep your distance from others where possible, particularly when indoors, and avoid crowded spaces.
- Masks should be worn if unable to maintain a reasonable distance from others, even if not mandated for general use
- Maintain good hygiene by frequent washing or sanitising of hands, sneezing, and coughing into elbows, and cleaning up and wiping down your immediate area after use.
- Use the Check in CBR app to check in to each building you visit on campus.
- Monitor the situation – keep up to date with the ACT Government (or other jurisdiction) health advice and the Campus Alert System risk level

## Specific Risk mitigators

### 1. Vaccination

- Students and staff are expected to be fully immunised including a third or booster dose when eligible.
- If a formal Work Health and Safety Hazard and Risk Assessment identifies that residual risk is high despite the application of other mitigators, consideration could be given to right to mandating vaccination for all face-to-face teaching.

### 2. Masks (when mandated)

- A minimum three-layer mask that fits securely around the face and covers the nose and mouth must be worn at all times
- A mask can only be removed in certain situations such as when it is necessary for the activity the person is performing
- Teaching staff may remove their mask while teaching *provided the following criteria are met*:
  - Doing so is required to ensure good communication
  - They are comfortable to do so.
  - They remain at the lectern or front of class and replace the mask when they are finished or if they intend to move around
  - They maintain at least 1.5m distance between themselves and students
  - All students wear masks
  - They wipe down the lectern or desk after they finished.
- If a formal Work Health and Safety Hazard and Risk Assessment identifies that residual risk is high despite the application of other mitigators, consideration could be given to right to mandating the use of particulate filtration respirators (PFRs) such as the N95 mask or similar.

### 3. Ventilation

- Ventilation in rooms should be optimised, for example through opening of windows and doors where possible.
- Use of outdoor spaces should be considered, where practicable.
- Airing of rooms should also be considered between activities

### 4. COVID-like symptoms

- All individuals with COVID-19 like symptoms will not be allowed to attend work or class until symptoms resolve. If a student is unable to attend a class, an alternative delivery option must be made available to them. Academic staff members unable to teach due to being unwell, should be provided support systems for an alternate staff member or for the class to be rescheduled.

### 5. Management of positive cases and assessment of risk exposure level

- All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are not allowed to attend classes on campus and must isolate until cleared for release by ACT Health or jurisdictional equivalent
- Individuals who attended activities on campus while infectious (2 days before onset of symptoms or positive test, whichever earlier) must inform their course convenor as soon as possible
- Records of students in classes are held in the primary student record systems
- All individuals (staff and students) who are enrolled in a class that has been attended by a COVID-19 positive case must be notified of their exposure risk as soon as reasonably practicable and must follow [ACT Health guidelines](#) appropriate to their exposure risk.
- Staff or students who subsequently test positive to COVID following exposure to a case on campus should submit a [Figtree safety incident notification](#)
- Students should be requested to maintain the same partner or group if pair or group work is required where practical.

### 6. Cleaning

- Contactless hand sanitiser stations will be available at the main entrance to buildings.
- Signage will be placed within venues reminding students about COVID-safe behaviours.
- Desks and surfaces must be cleaned by individuals upon entry to spaces and on leaving; cleaning materials and bins are in situ.

- Posters on hand washing are prominent in venue bathrooms and hand-washing facilities are available in the bathrooms.
- Staff safety briefing will be made available to examinations management staff and advised to College General Managers.

## 7. Venue management and regulations

- 100% capacity will be utilised where possible, depending on the type of teaching setting and risk assessment.
- Clear signposting will be provided at the entrance of each venue on maximum capacities.
- Corridors outside teaching spaces and labs should be kept clear and students should assemble outside buildings, if possible, when waiting for scheduled class times.
- When vacating classrooms, students should egress as quickly as possible and not congregate in entrances or corridors
- Generally, a two-hour booking time limit should be used, with all participants to enter and leave within two hours. For events planned for more than two hours a local risk assessment should be undertaken and risk mitigators considered such as regular breaks, increasing ventilation, cohorting groups or mandatory vaccination.
- Staff will be encouraged to complete the Australian Government Department of Health 'COVID-19 infection control' awareness training before the commencement of teaching.
- Staff will be provided with appropriate PPE to undertake their work.
- Classrooms should be booked with at least 15 minutes break in between bookings to allow for ventilation and cleaning of the room.
- Physical distancing signage and floor markings should be in place to assist participants with maintaining compliance at class handovers.

### Inspection of venues

Physical inspection of venues (selected by risk) will be undertaken to ensure compliance. The inspection will be undertaken by the Facilities and Services on Campus team. Repercussions of non-compliance include, but are not limited to:

- Minor non-compliance items must be amended during walk through on instruction from the designated University Officer.
- Reports of non-compliance shall be escalated to the local area WHS Manager for corrective action.
- COVID-19 adherence inspections to be undertaken and recorded in Figtree at a frequency in-line with the University COVID19 alert system
- All corrective actions must be recorded in Figtree.

### Risk Matrix - exposure risk levels following a positive case in a teaching space

Activity types		Duration	Risk level
<b>Type 1</b>	Forward-facing, low interactivity, larger venue e.g. lecture	<2 hours	Low
		2-4 hours	Moderate
		>4 hours	Moderate
<b>Type 2</b>	Small room, high interactivity e.g. seminars, tutorials, team-based learning	<2 hours	Low in general Moderate for teammates
		2-4 hours	Moderate

		>4 hours	Moderate in general High for teammates if mask was removed
<b>Type 3</b>	High social distancing, low interactivity between students e.g. labs, studios	<2 hours	Low in general Moderate for lab partners
		2-4 hours	Moderate
		>4 hours	Moderate in general High for lab partners if mask was removed
<b>Type 4</b>	Specific teaching settings that may represent a higher risk e.g. music classes, clinical placements; teaching placements in remote communities	Consider conducting a specific WHS Hazard and Risk Assessment to determine residual risk	
<b>Type 5</b>	Placement in setting classified by government as high risk	Follow government guidelines	