



## Changes to COVID restrictions from Friday

23 February 2022

Dear students,

It was great to see so many of you out and about during Welcome Week. We estimate we had up to 20,000 people on our Camperdown/Darlington campus last Wednesday, with big crowds across the entire week. Thanks to all who made it happen and took part.

I was particularly pleased to hear from many students who are so happy about being able to get back to in-person classes and to spend time on campus. It has been a time of great disruption, but everyone felt things were getting a bit more back to normal.

We are going to make some changes to our University settings this semester, in light of the recent NSW Government announcement about [changes to restrictions](#). Here are the details:

### **Returning to campus**

With Semester 1 officially starting this week, we look forward to seeing more activity on campus and are excited to welcome more students and staff back. In most cases, students located in Australia should be enrolled in the on-campus version of their units of study.

In Semester 1, remote options are available for many units of study, for students located offshore or who are otherwise unable to attend on campus. While permission is not required to enrol remotely, we strongly encourage students who can attend in-person to do so, as we have seen over the past two years that learning outcomes and student life are best experienced in a face-to-face environment.

### **Masks**

From this Friday 25 February, restrictions on masks will ease in most indoor settings, including office buildings and classrooms in higher education settings. Until 25 February masks can only be removed in classrooms for teaching and learning purposes to enable clear enunciation, to be heard and to be understood. Students are asked to keep their masks on indoors until Friday unless participating in classroom discussion.

From 25 February:

- the University will continue to encourage staff and students to wear masks in the classroom environment, particularly when physical distancing cannot be maintained
- masks will continue to be required in clinical settings, laboratories, workshops, and other environments according to the relevant public health orders and local COVID Safety Plan.

Masks may continue to be worn by students and staff as a personal preference in areas where they are not required. Students are advised to bring their own masks to campus except where PPE is provided in approved clinical or lab settings.

**Room capacity and ventilation**

In alignment with the eased government restrictions, there are no capacity limits set for teaching, unless prescribed as part of an agreed safety plan. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in place where required as per our COVID Safety Plan, such as in lab and clinical settings, and teaching rooms classified as semi-ventilated are being physically checked to ensure they are adequately provisioned. Ventilation checks are being conducted as part of the room audit across campus.

**Managing COVID on campus**

If you test positive for COVID and have been on campus in the preceding 72 hours you must advise the COVID Taskforce by emailing [covid19.taskforce@sydney.edu.au](mailto:covid19.taskforce@sydney.edu.au). Class cohorts will not typically be notified as positive case locations are [listed on the University website](#). Please ensure you take a rapid antigen test and stay home if you develop any symptoms at any time.

**Conditions of entry to our campuses**

We continue to encourage students and staff to maintain their vaccination and booster status. We will continue to expect that unvaccinated students and staff are able to provide evidence of a negative PCR test within three days prior or a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) taken on the same day. Campus buildings have returned to normal operational mode and swipe cards are generally not required to enter buildings, unless access has been restricted.

**Library operations**

Library hours have now returned to normal operational mode, and most library information desks on our campuses have returned to in-person staffing from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 2pm on weekends. Masks will not be required to be worn by students or non-customer-facing staff in the Library, but will be encouraged. All learning hubs have been reopened and will only require swipe access after-hours. Other information on library operations is available on the [library website](#).

Thank you for continuing to help [keep our community safe](#) – it has been great to see such a high level of cooperation and adherence to COVID-safe practices. I will continue to update you as further decisions are made on any changes to our settings, and I wish all students a wonderful first week back to classes.

Regards,  
Mark

**Mark Scott**  
**Vice-Chancellor and Principal**

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