

COVIDSafe Roadmap- Omicron Variant @ AFTRS: Working, Teaching & Learning

AFTRS is committed to a safe working and learning environment for everyone in our community. The Federal Government has announced a [Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Australia](#) and a [National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response](#). Alongside this the NSW Government has released the [Reopening NSW Roadmap](#). AFTRS has developed a plan for COVIDSafe working and learning that is aligned to both the national and state roadmaps. This AFTRS plan sets out a staged return to COVIDSafe on-campus working and learning that includes collaborative screen and radio production activities as well as accessing and using specialist equipment safely.

These guidelines and parameters will be reviewed by the AFTRS COVIDSafe team weekly and revised in accordance with changing circumstances and the latest government advice. Changes will be based on community vaccination and transition rates, relevant public health orders and government recommendations.

Omicron Variant

Given the very high transmission rates of the Omicron variant, AFTRS has developed the OMICRON Zone to the AFTRS COVID Safe Road Map to mitigate the risks posed by this variant.

This plan utilised government guidance as at 11 January 2022.

PRINCIPLES FOR KEEPING AFTRS COVID-SAFE (OMICRON)

Testing and vaccination

- Administer a rapid antigen test on arrival at AFTRS
- Full Vaccination mandatory for anyone involved in hands-on learning & production activities, booster shots are required within 2 months of people's eligibility date.

PPE

- It is mandatory to wear a mask at all times, in all spaces of AFTRS and on all sets
- These masks must meet the minimum requirements recommended by NSW Health

Physical Distancing

- Maintain 1.5m between yourself and others
- Observe room capacity restrictions posted throughout the building
- Adhere to all NSW State quarantine and isolation measures

Hygiene

- Frequently clean and disinfect communal areas
- Maintain good hygiene – hand sanitise / handwash regularly
- Stay home if unwell

Feeling Unwell?

- Don't come into AFTRS

DEFINITIONS

Hands on learning are scheduled learning activities that require:

- specialist equipment and facilities available only from the AFTRS building.
- The physical presence of specialist subject matter experts or contributors
For example- actors, documentary participants, movement training and vocal coaches.
- Groups (classes, teams) of students working collaboratively whilst using specialist AFTRS equipment or facilities. For example: some JTAs for MA classes, BA subjects in Image and Sound, BAY3 Cine and Sound

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electives, some specialist Short Courses such as Lighting Fundamentals, Editing Intensive, Intro to Camera Assisting

- Scheduled classes for the preparation of on-set production and broadcast activities.
For example – tech checks, mock shoot, gear training sessions.

2. Production Activities are shoots and radio broadcast activities that require:

- Approved production shoots that have had Final Production Meetings and approved Risk Assessments for productions for BA and MA courses
For example: gear pick up and return, pre-light session, bump in for art department plus the actual shoot days
- Approved radio broadcast activities
- Production activities that are scheduled as part of a Short Industry Course

When in the building, it is everyone's responsibility to look after our community and show the leadership to point out when things aren't working well or when we observe individual / groups not following the guidelines.

If you have any COVIDSafe questions, feedback or reports to make, please contact COVIDSafe@aftrs.edu.au

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COVIDSafe OMICRON ROADMAP Zone

The COVIDSafe Committee approves the changes to measures based on community vaccination & risk level, using the following criteria:

- Easing/increasing of public health orders: for example, venues opening up such as pubs and clubs etc
- Ongoing benchmarking with other institutions with similar activities – e.g. NIDA, ABC, SBS and general screen production industry
- Community transmission rates
- AFTRS Risk Assessment of current environment & specific activity

Activity	BLUE ZONE
Building Entry Requirement	<p><u>Proof of full vaccination is required including proof of booster shot within 2 months of your eligible date</u></p> <p><i>(OR a Certified Medical Exemption from all COVID Vaccinations)</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p><u>AFTRS-Supplied rapid antigen test self-administered on entry on alternate day throughout January while the building is open reduced hours. If you come in on a non-testing day, please request a rapid antigen test from reception/security for entry.</u> <i>(Positive results will be sent home).</i></p> <p>AND</p> <p><u>Temperature Check on Arrival</u></p> <p>AND</p> <p><u>Check in to AFTRS Entry System</u> <i>If you do not have a compatible smart phone/device, you must enter your contact details into the AFTRS iPad PLUS provide a printed certified Vaccination Certificate</i></p> <p>Only approved hands-on learning activities, production, post-production, and broadcast activities are permitted in the building. <i>(See "DEFINITIONS")</i></p> <p>Admission to AFTRS on approval of Director, Head of Production or Program Convenor only</p> <p>Observe public health orders</p> <p>Masks are mandatory in all spaces, at all times within AFTRS and on all sets. <i>(If you have a Certified Medical or other Lawful Exemption from wearing a mask please have a confidential conversation with the Director of People & Culture or Student Centre).</i></p>

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Building: Staff / Worker Access	<p>Restricted access for hands on learning and specialist production and broadcast activities. (See "DEFINITIONS")</p> <p>Staff to work from home unless required in the building for hands on learning and specialist activities</p> <p>No Dependants, Friends or Animals permitted in the building. <i>(Service animals are permitted)</i></p>
Building: Student Access	<p>Restricted access for hands on learning and specialist production and broadcast activities. (See "DEFINITIONS")</p> <p>Access by Program Convenor or Director approval.</p> <p>For any actors under 15, contact Head of Production.</p>
Building Open Status	<p>Building is open only for approved hands-on learning (award courses & short courses) and production and broadcast activities, to be approved by Director, Head of Production or Program Convenor</p> <p>The building will be open throughout January: Tue: 09:00-17:00 Wed: 09:00-17:00 Fri: 09:00-17:00</p> <p><u>You are only permitted entry on approval by Director, Head of Production or Program Convenor</u></p>
Learning: Formal classes (including delivery mode of lectures and tutorials)	<p>Essential hands-on learning activities are prioritised (classes, broadcast, short courses, production, and post-production activities).</p> <p>All other classes and short courses will be delivered remotely where possible.</p>
Learning: Hands on Learning Activities	<p>Essential hands-on learning activities are prioritised (classes, broadcast, short courses, production and postproduction activities).</p> <p>All other classes and short courses will be delivered remotely where possible.</p>
Industry Access / Functions and Events	<p>Building Closed for Industry Access/Functions & Events.</p>
Library	<p>Online Support only for January.</p>
Room capacity restrictions	<p>As per latest room capacity document on the intranet.</p>
Physical distancing	<p>Physical distancing guidelines enforced</p> <p>No congregating in public spaces</p>

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Production Activities	<p>Productions occurring and adhering to approved COVIDSafe Plan. Approved volunteer crew allowed.</p> <p>Access to building granted by Head of Production / Director of Teaching & Learning</p> <p>All cast, crew, contractors, staff and volunteers involved in a production must have an AFTRS-supplied rapid antigen tests self-administered the first day on set and again every alternate day. This process will be supervised by a COVID-Safe Supervisor.</p> <p>A COVID Safe Supervisor will be on sets in the morning to supervise rapid antigen tests and COVID Safe protocols.</p>
Post Production Facilities	Capacity as per latest Room Capacity documents or approved usage restrictions
Production Equipment Pickup	<p>Contact Tech Store for pre-arranged pick up & return throughout January. 48 hours notice required.</p> <p>No unauthorised pick-ups/returns permitted.</p>
Radio Broadcast	<p>Capacity as per latest Room Capacity documents or approved usage restrictions.</p> <p>Access to building granted by Program Convenor / Director</p>
Short Course & Industry Certificates	All Short Courses & Industry Certificates with a start date of January 2022 have been cancelled.
Graduand Access	Not Permitted for January. (BAY3 2021 class are classified as "students" until the course end date in April. Refer to student access above).
IT Equipment Pickup	<p>Contactless pick up at pre-arranged, approved times</p> <p>Director approval required</p>
Work Experience (AFTRS Hosting)	Remote only
Work Placements (AFTRS students on placement)	Restrictions for placements determined by external placement sites and dependent on specific sector /provider
Café	Closed

Building Access Guidelines during Omicron Zone for Staff & External Contractors

AFTRS Directors to provide written approval via email to staff/external contractor to attend site for essential purposes when required.

* Questions for Divisional Directors when considering requests for attending site:

1. Is my reason for attending the site essential for the safe running of building infrastructure and cannot be completed remotely?
2. Is my reason for attending the site essential for the security of the building and cannot be completed remotely?
3. Is my reason for attending the site essential to the cleaning/hygiene of the building and cannot be completed remotely?
4. Is my reason for attending the site essential to supporting student learning and cannot be completed remotely?

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an acronym for 'coronavirus disease 2019', a novel respiratory virus which is believed to have originated in December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared that COVID-19 was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January 2020. On 11 March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 to be a Pandemic.

COVID-19 is part of a family of coronaviruses which can cause illness in humans and animals. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus. So far, there is no vaccine or cure. Individuals with mild cases can generally manage their symptoms through rest and recuperation at home. However, in severe cases, hospitalisation and intensive care is necessary. Complications of COVID-19 can be fatal. Importantly, COVID-19 is highly infectious as it can be transmitted indirectly, as well as through direct contact.

Symptoms

There is no conclusive set of symptoms which will indicate whether a person has COVID-19. At the moment, a test is needed to confirm a diagnosis of COVID-19. However, there are a set of common and less common symptoms which patients generally present with:

COMMON	OTHER SYMPTOMS
Fever (37.5°C or higher)	Runny Nose
Cough	Headache
Sore Throat	Muscle or Joint Aches & Pains
Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing	Loss of Appetite
Fatigue	Conjunctivitis
Loss of Sense of Smell	Skin Rash
Altered Sense of Taste	Discolouration of Finger or Toes
Nausea	Chest Pain or Pressure
Vomiting	Loss of Speech or Movement
Diarrhoea	

Sourced from Australian Government Department of Health, NSW Government & WHO

Generally, the average time for symptoms to manifest is thought to be 5 – 6 days after infection. However, it is important to note that this is only on average. Some people who contract COVID-19 may not present any symptoms at all but will still be able to spread the virus. On the other hand, some individuals will present with

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symptoms after the sixth day past infection. The medical consensus seems to be that where a person with COVID-19 does display symptoms, this will be within a 14-day window.

How COVID-19 Spreads

Currently, it is understood that COVID-19 spreads in the following ways:

- Contact with a person while they are infectious (including in the 48 hours before they had symptoms)
- Direct or indirect contact with respiratory droplets (such as when a person coughs or sneezes)
- Direct contact with objects and surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) which are contaminated by respiratory droplets from an infected person, then touching your mouth or face

Vulnerable Groups

Based on the current evidence, the Commonwealth Department of Health has identified that the people most at risk of contracting COVID-19 are:

- Travellers who have recently been overseas
- Those who have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID
- People in correctional and detention facilities
- People in group residential settings

The Commonwealth Department of Health has identified that the following persons are likely to be at a higher risk of serious illness / complications if they are infected with COVID-19:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older with one or more chronic medical conditions
- People aged 65 years and older with chronic medical conditions
- People aged 70 years or older
- People with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems
- People in aged care facilities
- People with a disability

Resources

For further information, please refer to the following resources:

National Coronavirus Helpline https://www.health.gov.au/	1800 020 080
NSW Health Department Helpline https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx	1300 066 055
QLD Health Department Helpline https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19	13 432 584
VIC Health Department Helpline https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus	1800 675 398
SA Health Department Helpline https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/	1300 232 272
WA Health Department Helpline https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/articles/a_e/coronavirus	(08) 6373 2222
TAS Health Department Helpline https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/	1800 671 738
ACT Health Department Helpline https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/	(02) 5124 9213
NT Health Department Helpline	(08) 8922 8044

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<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

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