



COVID-19

Member Update - 7 Sept 2020

As you are aware, the 'roadmap' for Victorian restrictions announced on 6 September includes a lot of new advice around schooling arrangements for Term 4. See below for further details of this.

The IEU and the Australian Education Union have been regularly involved in briefings and consultation with the Department of Education and the Education Minister, and our emphasis has been on finding the appropriate balance between students' needs and the health and safety of our members. We acknowledge that there will be a range of valid views about this slow and staged return to face-to-face teaching, but we support the announced strategy which provides our members with a clear guide to schooling arrangements over coming months.

We particularly endorse the clear and unambiguous advice that staff should only attend school grounds when legitimately required and should be allowed to work remotely where possible. The ambiguities and inconsistencies in this crucial area during the first half of Term 3 were a huge concern to many IEU members – we campaigned publicly around this and we are glad to see yesterday's clear, safe advice for schools that is consistent with other workplaces.

On-site staffing requirements will increase in Term 4. Some staff in secondary schools will be required to supervise the GAT and other VCE/VCAL assessments in the week starting 5 October, and from 12 October all year levels in regional Victoria and junior primary and senior secondary classes in Melbourne will start to return to face-to-face teaching. This announcement has given us significantly more time for planning and consultation than previous rapid transitions allowed, and we encourage all school staff – particularly school leadership, IEU Reps, Consultative Committee Reps, and Health and Safety Reps – to continue to work together to prepare effective and safe working arrangements for Term 4 which take into account workload stresses and relevant individual staff circumstances.

The Education Roadmap

All Victorian schools will continue to provide remote and flexible learning for the remainder of Term 3, except specialist schools in rural and regional Victoria, consistent with current settings.

School staff will be required to attend school at times when they are delivering on-site learning or supervision, including the allocation of additional classes as required consistent with the current agreement. At all other times, they should continue to work remotely where possible.

TIMELINE:

5–9 October (first week of Term 4):

- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students, except in specialist schools in rural and regional Victoria
- VCE and VCAL students can continue to attend on site for essential assessments, including the General Achievement Test on Wednesday 7 October
- on-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided consistent with existing guidelines.

From 12 October – schools in metropolitan Melbourne:

- students in Prep to Grade 2 return to full-time on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program will not continue for these year levels
- students in specialist schools return to full-time on-site schooling. Schools can offer learning materials for students who continue to learn from home
- year 11 and 12 students will now attend on-site schooling full time, and Year 10 students enrolled in a VCE or VCAL program
- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Grade 3 to Year 10, other than for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students. A date for the return of these year levels to face-to-face learning will be subject to further health advice.

From 12 October – schools in rural and regional Victoria:

- specialist schools continue with current arrangements
- all students (from Prep to Year 12) return to full-time on-site schooling by Friday 16 October. Schools can stagger the return of different year levels as appropriate during this week. This decision can be made by individual schools or networks/clusters of schools.

During the staged return, outside school hours care will be available to students attending for on-site supervision for the relevant year levels returning to on-site learning. Holiday programs may operate during the school holidays for students who are eligible for on-site supervision.

As always, your union is here to support you. While our Melbourne office remains closed for the time being, our organisers and industrial staff are working harder than ever to advocate for you and provide assistance to individual members in need.

Please don't hesitate to contact us for advice or support – you can reach us at info@ieuvictas.org.au or by sending a text message to 0480 092 251. You can find further information and updates on the [dedicated section of our website](#) and by following us on [Facebook](#), [twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

In unity

Debra James

General Secretary