

Ref: A2071326

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Dear Student,

I am aware that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in challenging and uncertain times for you and your education.

We are fortunate in South Australia to have sustained low case numbers in our community, and therefore reduced risk levels. However, as we lift restrictions, some further cases are inevitable.

Our current position is the result of all of us reducing the number of close contacts, minimising non-essential travel, practicing social distancing and good hygiene, maintaining one of Australia's highest testing rates, closing state borders, effective quarantine processes and closing high-risk settings and activities.

I would like to thank you for playing your part in helping stop the spread of COVID-19 in South Australia by quickly adapting to online learning and social distancing.

As South Australia's Chief Public Health Officer, I am responsible for protecting the community from COVID-19 and other health threats. Collectively, my fellow Chief Health Officers from other states and territories and I have carefully examined the national data on the current outbreak, the medical research and the scientific evidence that is currently available to us.

Based on this, the very low levels of COVID-19 in South Australia and our state's effective response, I am encouraging universities and TAFE to begin to return to face-to-face education in small groups, such as tutorials, workshops, laboratory and field studies.

Your university or TAFE will be in contact with you about how this will be managed within their institute.

Risk mitigation strategies will be put in place. **The most important part of this is ensuring that you do not attend university or TAFE if you are unwell, even with only very mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (cough, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, fever).** Loss of taste and smell is also a recognised symptom of COVID-19. If you are unwell with any of these symptoms, **please seek testing for COVID-19.**

I also encourage you to download the COVIDSafe app, if you have not done so already. The app help speeds up contacting people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, helping us to protect you, your friends and family.

Students with a chronic medical condition or a compromised immune system may wish to consult their GP to determine whether they should return, or continue to work or study remotely.

For the latest updates and advice, you can visit the [SA Health](#) or [sa.gov.au](#) websites.

I wish you the very best for your studies for the remainder of this semester and the next.

Yours sincerely



PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER
Chief Public Health Officer
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18 / 05 / 2020