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1. COVID-19: ADVICE TO NSW PROVIDERS REGARDING STUDENTS AND STAFF RETURNING FROM VICTORIA

In line with recent advice from the NSW Ministry of Health regarding minimising the COVID-19 infection risk in NSW schools, particularly the potential for people returning from Victoria to re-introduce COVID-19 in NSW, the Department recommends the following precautions to Providers:

- With the exception of the special arrangements that have been put in place for individuals who live in the border communities, students and staff who have been in Victoria in the 14 days prior to commencement of teaching should be excluded from on-campus attendance and/or face-to-face teaching until 14 days have elapsed since they have left Victoria.

(Please note that cross-border special arrangements are changing: see where to find the latest advice below).
- Please note that depending on the date of their arrival in NSW, these students and staff are also subject to public health orders that pertained to parts of Melbourne initially and if they arrived in NSW from any part of Victoria from 8 July they must self-isolate for 14 days from their arrival in NSW.
- If they return to Victoria for any reason, including weekend visits, they must commence the 14-day self-isolation period again on return to NSW.

a. New NSW-Victoria border restrictions from 22 July 2020

From **midnight Tuesday 21 July** a border zone, clearly defined along the Murray River, has been established to restrict entry to NSW for Victorians to extremely limited purposes.

Under a border entry permit, NSW border residents are now restricted in their reasons for travelling into the Victorian side of the border zone. If they travel beyond the border zone into Victoria, they will be required to self-isolate upon return for 14 days. Any other NSW resident who crosses the Murray River, or otherwise enters Victoria or has been there in the last 14 days, will be required to self-isolate for 14 days on their return to NSW.

Further information is available at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/news/restrictions-tightened-for-entry-to-nsw-from-victoria>.

The conditions imposed on border entry permits have also been tightened. Most existing permits expired at 11:59 pm on 21 July 2020, except those issued under compassionate grounds, which will remain valid until the expiry date. If eligible for a permit under the new conditions, individuals will need to apply.

Further information regarding the new border restrictions and permits is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/border-restrictions>

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-covid-19-nsw-border-entry-permit>.

b. Information and support available from the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)

ASQA provides advice on COVID-19 support measures and delivery arrangements for RTOs on their website at <https://www.asqa.gov.au/coronavirus-advice>.

Specific advice regarding compliance arrangements and provider FAQs are also available at <https://www.asqa.gov.au/resources/faqs/covid-19>.

Affected providers may contact the ASQA Info Line on 1300 701 801 or email enquiries@asqa.gov.au to discuss adaptive measures.

c. General information on COVID-19

For general advice and updates on COVID-19 in NSW, please refer to the following websites:

- NSW Government: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>
- NSW Health: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

For any technical support in relation to this update, contact Training Market Customer Support at Training.Market@det.nsw.edu.au.

Please note that this update is for the information of approved Smart and Skilled providers only. If providers require further information for students or employers, please contact Training Market Customer Support, as above, unless otherwise instructed.