

Steffen Faurby
Managing Director TAFENSW
Mary Ann Street
Ultimo NSW 2007
By email: steffen.faurby@tafensw.edu.au

15 July 2021

Attention
James Canavan- A/Manager Industrial Relations
Julian Oliveux- Head of Workplace Relations

james.canavan3@tafensw.edu.au
Julian.oliveux1@tafensw.edu.au

Dear Mr Faurby

Re: TAFE NSW and COVID -19 Restrictions

We would like to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 14 July 2021.

We understand the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place through health orders and are also attempting to clarify their opaque nature in relation to what is essential work. We also acknowledge that the NSW Premier, Health Minister and Chief Medical Officer have asked people in Greater Sydney to:

- Avoid unnecessary travel.
- Not to linger or browse.
- That if you can avoid contact with people from other households that you should.
- That workplaces should ensure that mask wearing and social distancing is adhered to.
- That workplaces are a major place of infection.
- That the public should use technologies such as click and collect to avoid contact at the retail interface.
- That surfaces, droplets and aerosols including those conveyed by air conditioning can carry the delta strain.
- That Police are asking education staff for the reasons for their travel and despite justification are still recording a warning.
- That SafeWork NSW also has jurisdiction to enforce Work Health and Safety in relation to COVID-19 exposure during the pandemic.
- We should presume that anyone in Greater Sydney has COVID-19.
- Student Nurses have been identified as infectious when at Hospital clinicals.

What we would like to ask from you is the following:

1. What risk assessments have been conducted into the opening of each campus, and functional areas of each including those in a high risk area? Who were they consulted with and we request a copy of these.
2. What controls are in place to support staff transport to and from work, including use of private vehicles?
3. What controls are in place to prevent infection of staff who work in facilities that remain open, including appropriate ventilation, negative pressure systems, screens and click and collect systems for goods, including in administration and library areas?
4. What controls are in place to prevent infection of students (others) who are utilising facilities at the campuses for whom TAFE NSW has control?
5. What assessments have been put in place to classify different roles as essential requiring attendance, requiring facilities to be opened.

We note that education staff are not to have face to face contact with students, and that similar facilities such as Council Community Libraries have utilised technology to allow for “take away” click and collect systems for library books. We also note that the current restructure looks to remove or reduce security from campuses, which poses the question as to who will enforce the current COVID-safety restrictions.

Whilst we appreciate the advice is changing by the moment, we write to you as the officer of TAFE NSW with duties under the Work Health and Safety Act (NSW) to ensure that these important safety issues raised on behalf of members can be resolved.

We are seeking your response by close of business 19 July, 2021 so that this issue can be resolved. Please contact Jessica Epps on 0401521561 or email jepps@psa.asn.au.

Yours faithfully.

Troy Wright
Assistant General Secretary