The 2021 VCE exams

This fact sheet tells you how to be COVIDSafe during the 2021 VCE exams. By coming to a VCE exam, you are confirming that you do not have COVID-19 and any COVID-19 symptoms.

You can read other information about 2021 VCE exams here:

* [2021 VCE Exams Navigator](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/studentguides/ExamsNavigator/Pages/index.aspx)
* [Approved materials and equipment for VCE external assessments](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/materials/Pages/index.aspx)
* [VCAA rules](https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/Pages/ExaminationRules.aspx), [2021 VCE examination timetable](https://vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/Key-dates/Pages/VCE-exam-timetable.aspx) and [Special Provision](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/administration/special-provision/Pages/SpecialProvisionVCEandVCAL.aspx).

**Are the VCE exams COVIDsafe?**

Yes. All Victorian schools follow a COVIDSafe Plan.

**What should I do to be safe?**

**You must**:

* Register when you come for your VCE exam.
* Always wear a face mask properly. You do not need to wear a mask if you have an exemption.
* Clean your hands with a disinfectant.
* Always keep at least 1.5 metres away from other people.

**What should I do if I have a disability or illness?**

Please talk to your school about Special Examination Arrangements.

**What are COVID-19 symptoms?**

**If you have any of the symptoms below, you must NOT come to the exam:**

* Your sense of smell or taste has changed.
* You have a fever, chills or sweats.
* You have a cough, sore throat or runny nose.
* You feel short of breath.
* You have other symptoms like headache, sore muscles or vomiting.

**What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms before the exam?**

**If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, make sure you:**

* Speak to your school.
* Get tested for COVID-19.
* Tell the staff at the COVID-19 testing site that you are a VCE student.
* Stay home and wait for the results.

**Do NOT come to the exam if you are unwell on the day of the exam.**

**What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms during the exam?**

Tell the staff that you are not feeling well. They will ask you to wait in a separate area and call your parents or carers to pick you up. You must get tested for COVID-19 and stay home until you get your results.

**When should I NOT come to the exam?**

**You must NOT come to the exam if:**

* You have tested positive to COVID-19 or
* You are awaiting a result of a **symptomatic** COVID-19 test.

**What if I am a Primary Close Contact (PCC)?**

You can still sit your exam in a special room at the school. Your school will speak with you to make sure you understand what to do.

**What is a DES?**

If you cannot do your VCE exams due to COVID-19, you can apply for a Derived Examination Score (DES). Please talk to your school about what to do.

To get a DES, you need to have:

* A letter from the school.
* Your COVID-19 test or a medical certificate from a doctor recommending testing.

**What should I do if my school is closed because of COVID-19?**

Talk to your school. If VCE exams cannot be held at your school, you will not need to apply for a DES.

**Where can I get help with my mental health?**

It’s normal to feel stressed during exams. If you need support, speak to your family, friends or a trusted teacher. Speaking to a doctor can also help.

For more help, go to:

* [Mental health toolkit (education.vic.gov.au)](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/mentalhealth/Pages/mentalhealthtoolkit.aspx)
* <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/health/mentalhealth/quick-guide-to-student-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>

**What else should I do?**

If you are 12 years or older, you can [get a COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine). Book your first dose before your exam.

Do not get your first vaccine on the day of an exam or the day before an exam. Vaccines may have mild side effects such as tiredness, headache or fever.

Vaccination is not compulsory. But it is the best way to protect everyone from COVID-19. Speak to your doctor about it.

* For more information, go to: [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers).
* For translations, go to: [Translated information about COVID-19 vaccines](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-covid-19-vaccines).

Before your exams, do not go to busy places or use public transport if you can.

**Where can my parents or carers get more information?**

Your parents and carers can go to:

* [Tips for parents to support their child’s health and wellbeing.](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/family-health/Pages/your-childs-wellbeing.aspx%22%20%5Cl%20%22%3A~%3Atext%3DMaintain%20good%20relationships%201%20Share%20family%20memories%20and%2Cyour%20child%20stay%20connected%20to%20friends%20is%20important.)
* [Raising Learners Podcast Series](https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/podcasts-and-webinars/podcasts).

**Where can I get more information?**

* Contact the 24-hour COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398.
* Go to <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#what-are-the-symptoms-of-coronavirus-covid-19>.
* Speak to your GP.