



Dear

Yesterday the University was made aware that a sessional lecturer in the Griffith Law School is confirmed to have COVID-19.

The University understands the sessional staff member is in home isolation and is in a stable condition. The University has reached out to offer support.

Queensland Health have advised that the sessional lecturer **contracted the virus after they were last on campus** and no further action is required by the University.

This is the only confirmed staff or student case the University is aware of.

As you are aware, the University established its Crisis Management Team over a month ago and have been preparing to respond and support students or staff with COVID-19. The University is following all advice from health and government authorities.

Queensland Health advises there are 5 ways we can all help stop the spread of viruses:

- Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your face, nose and mouth. And avoid shaking hands
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Avoid contact with anyone who is unwell – try to stay 1.5m away from anyone coughing or sneezing.

The University also takes its privacy obligations seriously and will not be publishing personal information relating to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

I realise for some of you this will be a distressing time. The University has counselling and wellbeing services for both students and staff:

- For students - the [Griffith Online Health and Wellness Centre](#) can direct students to counselling services on campus, as well as other support resources.
- For staff and their immediate families - there is a confidential counselling service through an external provider, [Benestar](#).

If you need support outside University hours, the Griffith Mental Wellbeing Support Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide immediate assistance for emotional and mental distress. Phone 1300 785 442 or text 0488 884 146.

Students who are immune suppressed or have a respiratory problem that puts them at particular risk and need to move immediately to on-line teaching can contact studentconnect@griffith.edu.au

Staff who are at similar risk can work from home and should talk with their supervisor or the People Support Team on 07 3735 4011.

Please regularly check the [Coronavirus web page](#) and your University email regularly, as these are our main methods of communication.

Professor Carolyn Evans
Vice Chancellor and President

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