



# Agency Advisory 02-2020

## Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

(formally novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV)

**Tuesday 18 February 2020 14:00 Hours (New Information since previous advisory will be added in bold red)**

This advisory has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Paul Effler

### Agencies and stakeholders – current situation

#### International

- On 30 January 2020, the WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- The World Health Organization has officially named the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) as COVID-19
- Total confirmed global cases at 12:00 AWST Tuesday 18 February 2020 is 71,429
- Total confirmed deaths internationally at 12:00 AWST 18 February 2020 is 1,775

#### National

- **Released TODAY** – Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan For Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Commonwealth Emergency Response Plan (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-health-sector-emergency-response-plan-for-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>)
- According to the most recent National Incident Room (NIR) Situation Report, dated 18 February 2020, 15 confirmed cases have been detected in Australia: four cases from NSW, five cases from QLD, two cases from SA, and four cases from VIC.
- Broader national testing guidelines now include persons who have travelled to:
  - Hong Kong
  - Indonesia
  - Japan
  - Singapore
  - Thailand
- All Australian citizens quarantined on Christmas Island on 4 February 2020 have now been returned home to their respective states and territories.
- The advice of the DFAT for travel to mainland China is 'level 4 – do not travel'. The following travel restrictions are in place for people entering Australia:
  - foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) will not be allowed to enter Australia until 14 days after they have left or transited through mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)
  - Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family who have left or transited through mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) will still be able to enter Australia, as will airline crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment

## State

- To date, there have been no cases of COVID-19 identified in Western Australia.
- As of 12:00 AWST Tuesday 18 February 2020, a total of 130 people have returned a negative test result.
- As of 29 January 2020, 'Human coronavirus with pandemic potential' has been declared an urgently notifiable disease under Part 9 of the Public Health Act 2016.
- Since February, biosecurity officers from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, with the support of WA Health staff, have been meeting all passengers arriving in Australian airports who have travelled to mainland China in the past 14 days, undertaking assessment and providing information on isolation as appropriate.

## Isolation Guidance

There is an outbreak of COVID-19 in mainland China.

If you have travelled from mainland China or been in close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, special restrictions apply.

### Who needs to isolate?

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, you must isolate yourself in the following circumstances:

- If you have left or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China.
- If you have been in close contact with a proven case of COVID-19, you must isolate yourself for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

Isolation Guide (Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19 isolation guide)

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance>)

## More information

### National Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080

- International information and updates: World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>)
- Various resources for employers, schools and higher education, health, aged care, childcare, transport, travel and hotel sectors are available at the following websites:
  - WA Department of Health (<https://health.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>)
  - HealthyWA (<http://healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>)
  - Commonwealth Government (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)
  - COVID-19 Mythbusters (World Health Organization) (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>)

## Next advice

- The next agency advisory will be issued on **Thursday 20 February 2020**.

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