



# Agency Advisory #3

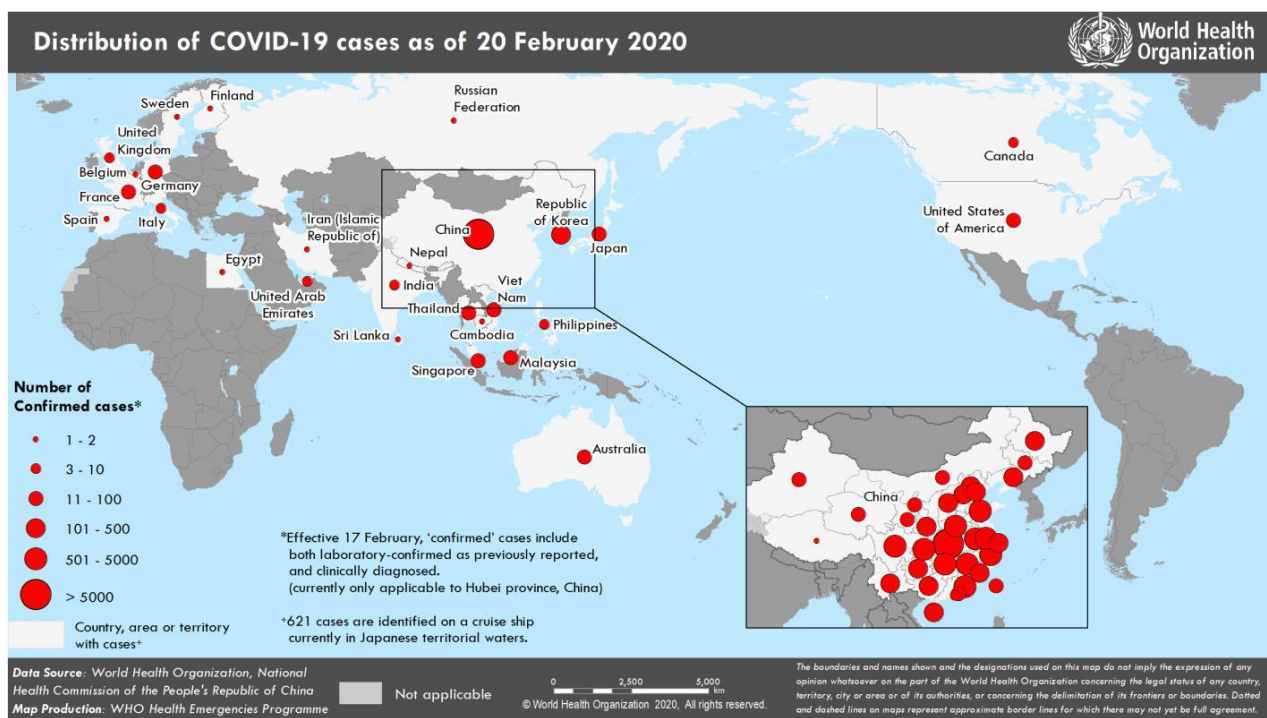
## COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Friday 21 February 2020 14:00 Hours

This advisory has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

### New Information

- As of 14:00 AWST 21 February 2020, all 204 people tested for COVID-19 in WA have had a negative result. One arrival from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, who tested positive for COVID-19, is a WA resident. This Diamond Princess evacuee is currently being airlifted to Perth for further assessment and healthcare. The Western Australian health system is well prepared to manage infectious disease situations and has well established systems and processes in place. The risk of COVID-19 to the WA community remains low.
- Total number of confirmed global cases at 14:00 AWST Friday 21 February 2020 is **75,748**.
- Total number of confirmed deaths internationally at 14:00 AWST 21 February 2020 is **2,129**.
- According to the most recent National Incident Room (NIR) Situation Report, dated 21 February 2020, 17 confirmed cases have been detected in Australia: five cases from QLD, four cases from NSW, four cases from VIC, two cases from SA and two cases from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship evacuee group.
- The Commonwealth has extended the following travel restrictions for people entering Australia until 28 February.
  - 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.
  - Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family who have left or transited through mainland China will be able to enter Australia, as will airline crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment.
  - all travellers who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 must self-quarantine until 14 days after leaving China.
- Chief Health Officer statement COVID-19 update #5  
<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Media-releases/2020/Chief-Health-Officer-statement-COVID19-update-5>
- The diagram below from the WHO illustrates the distribution of COVID-19 cases globally as of 20 February 2020, see link.  
[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200220-sitrep-31-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=dfd11d24\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200220-sitrep-31-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=dfd11d24_2)



## Summary of key information

- On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
- On 11 February WHO officially named the disease caused by the novel coronavirus as COVID-19.
- The Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus has been released (the COVID-19 Plan) and includes an overview of the national approach and operational plan for response. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-health-sector-emergency-response-plan-for-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>
- On 29 January 2020, 'Human coronavirus with pandemic potential' was declared an urgently notifiable disease under Part 9 of the Western Australian *Public Health Act 2016*.
- The Communicable Disease Control Directorate, WA Department of Health is leading the response to COVID-19 in WA, with support from the Population/Public Health Units.
- The best way to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 is to practise good hygiene. WA Health does not recommend the use of facemasks for the general community (who have no symptoms of respiratory illness), to prevent the risk of contracting COVID-19. See our fact sheet for further information. [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/\\_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/Coronavirus%20advice%20on%20the%20use%20of%20masks%20in%20the%20community.pdf](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/Coronavirus%20advice%20on%20the%20use%20of%20masks%20in%20the%20community.pdf)
- WA Health has developed a FAQ fact sheet for your information. This fact sheet is regularly updated as information changes. [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/\\_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/coronavirus-faqs-6-Feb.pdf](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/coronavirus-faqs-6-Feb.pdf)
- National guidelines have been expanded to allow for testing for COVID-19 in persons with coronavirus like symptoms and a history of travel in the last 14 days to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore or Thailand.
- The advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding travel to mainland China remains 'level 4 – do not travel'.

- Biosecurity officers from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, with the support of WA Health staff, continue to meet all passengers arriving in Australian airports who have travelled to mainland China in the past 14 days, undertaking assessment and providing information on testing and isolation as appropriate.

## Self-quarantine (self-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 self-quarantine?

To help limit the spread of COVID-19, you must self-quarantine 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-forpublic/mythbusters>)

**Next advice** - The next agency advisory will be issued **on Tuesday 25 February 2020.**

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