



# Agency Advisory #7

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Friday 06 March 2020 14:00 Hours (latest updates in RED)

This advisory has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Donna Mak

### New Information

- As of 06 March 2020, there are **three** confirmed cases in WA, two being associated with the Diamond Princess cruise ship, and one associated with overseas travel.
- An additional **1,110** Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- As of **14:00 AWST 6** March 2020, there have been **61** laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and two deaths. **Eight of the 61 confirmed cases** do not have a reported history of overseas travel, there have been **26** cases from NSW, one case from the NT, **13** cases from QLD, seven cases from SA, one case from TAS, 10 cases from VIC and three cases from WA.
- **NEW & UPDATED DAILY - Snapshot Infographic**  
[https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/\\_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/COVID19-daily-snapshot.pdf](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/~/_media/Files/Corporate/general%20documents/Infectious%20diseases/PDF/Coronavirus/COVID19-daily-snapshot.pdf)
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 5 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
  - Worldwide: **2,241** new confirmed cases were reported (**95,333** total);
  - In China: **143** new confirmed cases were reported (**80,565** total); **31** new deaths were reported (**3,015** total). Note that from 13 to 20 February 2020 China included “clinically diagnosed” cases and some of these may have been revised later pending laboratory outcomes. This may affect case numbers reported during and following that period;
  - Outside of China: **2,098** new confirmed cases were reported (**14,768** total). **Five** new countries/territories/area (**Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gibraltar, Hungary, Slovenia, and occupied Palestinian territory**) reported cases (**85** countries/territories/areas total). **Fifty-three** new deaths outside of China were reported (**267** total). The highest intensity of local transmission is occurring in Iran and certain regions of Italy (Lombardy and Veneto) and the Republic of Korea (Daegu and Cheongdo).
- **Ban on Work-Related International Travel for WA Health Staff - Due to the international outbreak of COVID-19, the State Government has recently banned non-critical, work-related international travel for public sector employees, effective immediately. In order to protect our staff and patients, WA Health has decided to extend this ban to include all funded international work-related travel, including sponsored travel.**

- **Prime Minister Media Release 5 March 2020.** <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-australia-0>
- **WA Department of Health Media Release 5 March 2020.** <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Media-releases/2020/WA-records-third-COVID-19-case>
- Federal Minister for Health and Chief Health Officer Media Release 1 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/western-australian-covid-19-case>
- In WA, the Chief Health Officer has formally escalated the [Infectious Disease Emergency Management Plan](#) to INITIAL ACTION PHASE.
- The [State Hazard Plan Human Biosecurity](#) has been **escalated to the response phase and a Level 2 Incident Level Declaration made by the Incident Controller, Dr Andrew Robertson**. This declaration does not change the internal response activities for Health Service Providers. SHP – Human Biosecurity details the roles and responsibilities of emergency service agencies. An Operational Area Support Group will be formed with a meeting invite to the standard emergency response agencies to occur in the coming days
- TRAVEL ALERTS - All travel alerts regarding COVID-19 can be followed at [Smartraveller](#). Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel advice in summary:
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) travel advice levels related to COVID-19 current at 6 March 2020:
  - China: 'do not travel';
  - Iran: 'do not travel';
  - The Republic of Korea: 'reconsider the need to travel'. It is also advised that travellers 'do not travel' to Daegu in South Korea;
  - Japan, Mongolia and Italy: 'exercise a high degree of caution'. It is also advised that travellers 'reconsider the need to travel' to 10 towns in Lombardy and one in Veneto.

## Returning Travellers

- The following travel restrictions are in place for people entering Australia having left mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) on or after 1 February 2020; for people entering Australia having left Iran on or after 1 March 2020; and for people entering Australia having left the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March 2020:
  - 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), Iran or the Republic of Korea;
  - Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family will still be able to enter Australia, as well as airline crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment;
  - all travellers who have left or transited through mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) on or after 1 February 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving China;
  - all travellers who have left or transited through Iran on or after 1 March 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving Iran;
  - **all travellers who have left or transited through the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving the Republic of Korea.**
- Countries considered to pose a risk of transmission as at 5 March 2020: This list is based on the risk of the person having been exposed to COVID-19 due to travel to a country with sustained community transmission and/or based on the patterns of travel between those countries and Australia, and/or the other epidemiological evidence.
  - **Higher risk:** Mainland China, Iran, Italy, South Korea
  - **Moderate risk:** Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia (including Bali), Japan, Singapore, Thailand

The most up to date list can be accessed at:

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

- All returned travellers who have travelled in or transited through **the remaining listed higher risk countries or a country considered to pose a moderate risk** of transmission in the last 14 days should self-monitor for symptoms and immediately isolate themselves if they become unwell. Further advice regarding additional measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission is imminent.
- HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN HOSPITALS OR RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS - Healthcare workers who have returned from any *higher risk country* should be advised not to undertake work in a hospital or residential care setting, including aged care facility, for 14 days since leaving the higher risk country.
- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statement-on-29-february-2020>

## Summary of other 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).
- In Western Australia the Communicable Disease Control Directorate within the WA Department of Health Public and Aboriginal Health Division is leading the response to COVID-19 with the instigation of the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC), in collaboration with the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC), and with support from the Population/Public Health Units and Health Service Providers.
- 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.
- WHO Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331215/WHO-2019-nCov-IPCPPE\\_use-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331215/WHO-2019-nCov-IPCPPE_use-2020.1-eng.pdf)

## More information

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

- International information and updates: [World Health Organization](#)
- [WHO COVID-19 Rolling Updates](#)
- 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](#)  
[HealthyWA](#)  
[Commonwealth Government](#)  
[COVID-19 MythBusters](#) (World Health Organisation)

**Next advice** - The next agency advisory will be issued on **Tuesday 10 March 2020**.

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