



Agency Advisory #10

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Tuesday 17 March 2020 **14:00** Hours (latest updates in RED)

This advisory has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Clare Huppatz

New Information

- As of 17 March 2020, there are 31 confirmed cases in WA.
- To date, 6,582 Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- As at 06:00 AEDT 17 March 2020, there have been 378 laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and five deaths. Of the 378 confirmed cases, there has been two cases from the ACT, 170 cases from NSW, 68 cases from QLD, 29 cases from SA, seven cases from TAS, 71 cases from VIC and 31 cases from WA. Of the 378 confirmed cases reported in Australia, 27 have recovered.
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 16 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
 - Worldwide: 13,903 new confirmed cases were reported (167,511 total)
 - Numerous countries in Europe and the United States of America are experiencing a rapid rise in case numbers.
 - In China: 29 new confirmed cases were reported (81,077 total); 14 new deaths were reported (3,218 total).
 - Outside of China: 13,874 new confirmed cases were reported (86,434 total). Four new countries/territories/areas reported cases (151 countries/territories/areas total). Eight hundred and forty-eight new deaths outside of China were reported (3,388 total).
- On 15 March the Prime Minister announced:
 - NEW SELF-ISOLATION GUIDELINES – ALL overseas arrivals to Australia will be required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from date of arrival, effective from midnight 15 March (AEST);
 - cruise ships from international ports will be banned from docking in Australia for 30 days;
 - the national Cabinet endorses the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) to introduce additional social distancing measures.
- On 15 March 2020, the CHO formally escalated the [State Hazard Plan Human Biosecurity](#) to a Level 3 Incident and a State of Emergency was declared.
- On 7 March the CHO formally escalated the [Infectious Disease Emergency Management Plan, WA Health System](#) to TARGETED ACTION PHASE.
- TRAVEL - The current advice (at 16 March 2020) to all Australians (regardless of age, health or destination) is to reconsider any non-essential overseas travel at this time. For up to date information please go to the Australian Government's Smartraveller website.

- **WA Premier announces a \$607 million COVID-19 economic relief package.** [Media Statement](#)
- **Based on the expert medical advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), Commonwealth, State and Territory governments have agreed to provide public advice against holding non-essential, organised public gatherings of more than 500 people from Monday 16th March 2020. For more information visit these links.**
- [Western Australian Government Pandemic Plan](#) March 2020
- **NEW & UPDATED DAILY - Snapshot Infographic** [Daily Snapshot COVID-19](#)
- Opening of Western Australian Metro COVID Clinics - Media Statement - [COVID-19 Clinics Media Statement 10 March](#)
- **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.
- **INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYERS** – It is not possible for employees to provide medical certificates if they have been declined a test for COVID-19. People who do not have symptoms SHOULD NOT be tested.

[Department of Health website](#)

[Public Gatherings and Visiting Vulnerable Groups](#)

Returning Travellers

- **HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN HOSPITALS OR RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS** - Healthcare workers who have returned from overseas travel will be required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from date of return.
- Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) [AHPPC Updates](#)

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 activation 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.

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 **Friday 20 March 2020**.

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