



Agency Advisory #6

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Tuesday 3 March 2020 14:00 Hours

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

New Information

- As of 3 March 2020, there are two confirmed cases in WA, associated with the Diamond Princess cruise ship. **On 1 March the first coronavirus related death in Australia was reported, in a 78-year-old man from WA, who was a passenger on the Diamond Princess cruise ship.**
<https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Media-releases/2020/WA-confirms-first-novel-Coronavirus-death>
- An additional **713** Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- As of **06:30 AEDT 03 March 2020**, there have been **33** laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and one death. Of the **33** confirmed cases, there have been **nine** cases from NSW, nine cases from QLD, three cases from SA, nine cases from VIC, two cases from WA **and one case from Tasmania**. Fifteen of these cases are reported to have recovered. The remaining cases are in a stable condition.
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated 3 March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
 - Worldwide: **1,804** new confirmed cases were reported (**88,948 total**);
 - In China: 206 new confirmed cases were reported (**80,174 total**); **42** new deaths were reported (**2,915 total**). Note that from 13 – 20 February 2020 China included “clinically diagnosed” cases, 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: **1,598** new confirmed cases were reported (**8,774 total**). Six new countries (Armenia, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, Iceland, and Indonesia) reported cases. Twenty-four new deaths outside of China were reported (**128 total**).
- 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 and the [State Hazard Plan Human Biosecurity](#) has been activated to STANDBY PHASE.

- **TRAVEL ALERTS** - All travel alerts regarding COVID-19 can be followed at [Smartraveller](#). Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel advice in summary:
 - Iran and Mainland China '**level 4 - do not travel**'.
 - Northern Italy (Lombardia and Veneto regions) Japan, Mongolia and South Korea '**level 2 - exercise a high degree of caution**'. It is also advised that travellers reconsider the need to travel to Daegu and Chengdu in South Korea due to significant outbreaks of COVID-19 in those cities.

Returning Travellers

- The following travel restrictions are in place **until 6 March 2020** for people entering Australia having left **mainland China on or after 1 February 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);
 - 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.
- The following travel restrictions are in place for people entering Australia having left **Iran on or after 1 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 Iran;
 - 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 Iran on or after 1 March 2020 must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving Iran.
- **Countries considered to pose a risk of transmission as at 3 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, 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
- WA Health has developed a fact [FAQs](#) sheet that is regularly updated as information changes.
- 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.

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 6 March 2020.**

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