



Agency Advisory #8

COVID-19 (Coronavirus disease)

Tuesday 10 March 2020 14:00 Hours (latest updates in RED)

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

New Information

- As of 10 March 2020, there are **six** confirmed cases in WA.
- **WA Chief Health Officer statement COVID-19 cases 5 and 6.** [New Cases](#)
- To date, **1,874** Western Australians tested for COVID-19 in WA have returned a negative result.
- As at **11:00 AEDT 10** March 2020, there have been **100** laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Australia, and three deaths. Of the **100** confirmed cases, there have been **54** cases from NSW, **15** cases from QLD, seven cases from SA, two cases from TAS, **16** cases from VIC and six cases from WA.
- **NEW & UPDATED DAILY - Snapshot Infographic** [Daily Snapshot COVID-19](#)
- According to the most recent [WHO Situation Report](#) dated **9** March 2020, in the past 24 hours:
 - Worldwide: **3,993** new confirmed cases were reported (**109,577** total);
 - In China: **45** new confirmed cases were reported (**80,904** total); **23** new deaths were reported (**3,123** 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: **3,948** new confirmed cases were reported (**28,673** total). **Three** new countries/territories/area (**Bangladesh, Albania and Paraguay**) reported cases (**104** countries/territories/areas total). **Two-hundred and two** new deaths outside of China were reported (**686** 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).
- **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.**

- COVID-19 Chief Medical Officer Interview [Chief Medical Officer Interview 10 March](#)
- 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 10 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 the region of Lombardia (Lombardy) and provinces of Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Reggio nell' Emilia, Rimini, Pesaro and Urbino, Alessandria, Asti, Novara, Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Vercelli, Padova, Treviso, and Venezia. This includes the cities of Milan and Venice.

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) or Iran must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving China or 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 10 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: [Risk Of Transmission Countries](#)

- **All returned travellers who have travelled overseas in the last 14 days should self-monitor for symptoms and immediately isolate themselves if they become unwell.**
- HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN HOSPITALS OR RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS - Healthcare workers who have returned from any higher risk country (Mainland China, Iran, South Korea, Italy) 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 [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Statement 29 Feb](#)

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) [WHO Rational PPE Use](#)

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 13 March 2020**.

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