Global

Countries close borders to travellers from China
Approximately 63 countries have increased border restrictions for travellers from China. Singapore, Italy, the USA, New Zealand, and Australia have introduced the most extensive measures.

Airlines continue to suspend or reduce flights to and from China
Airlines are continuing to reduce or suspend flights to and from mainland China, mainly as a response to declining demand for travel to that country. You can track flight changes here.

Cruise ships suspend operations to and from China
In accordance with the 24 January directive from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to suspend group tours, cruise ship operators in China have suspended operations. On 26 January major international cruise liners Royal Caribbean, MSC an Costa Cruises announced voyages would be cancelled through mid-February. By 30 January all international cruise ships to/from Shanghai were suspended by the companies not by Chinese authorities. Industry association Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) – which represents most of the major cruise liners – has advised its member cruise liners have suspended crew movements from mainland China and will deny boarding to any individual, whether guest or crew, who has travelled from or through mainland China within the previous 14 days. Additional health screening measures would also be implemented.

A useful summary of cruise ship cancellations and passenger restrictions can be found here.

Still no WHO recommendation to restrict international travel
The WHO continues to advise against any restrictions on international travel or trade.

Global cases of coronavirus continue to rise – first death outside China
There are now over 17000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus across at least 23 countries (including Spain, Sweden, Russia and the UK). Of the confirmed cases approximately 180 are outside China. The global death toll has risen to over 360 and the first death outside of China recorded in the Philippines. Over 480 people are said to have recovered from the virus, including 5 in Thailand and 1 in Vietnam.
For more information regarding confirmed and recovered cases visit this heat map.

Anti-Asian sentiment grows in the wake of the coronavirus
Reports of racism against people of Asian appearance have been reported in a number of countries including France, Canada and Australia. It’s our collective responsibility to ensure that people understand the facts about the transmission of this virus to keep these incidents to a minimum, to ensure a speedy recovery from our largest market.

China

Confirmed cases of coronavirus continue to rise in China
China is reported to have 17335 confirmed and over 12000 suspected cases of the coronavirus. Of these approximately 1300 have been classified as severe.

Bird flu outbreak in Hunan Province
China has reported an outbreak of H5N1 bird flu in Hunan Province and has culled 18,000 chickens.
Australia

**Australia announces entry restrictions to non-citizens travelling from China**
The Australian Government has announced temporary border restrictions on entry to Australia for travellers from, or transiting through, China (with the exception of Australian permanent residents) after 1 February. These measures will be reviewed in 14 days. Australia also raised its overall travel advice for mainland China to ‘Level 4 – Do Not Travel’ and introduced a requirement for all travellers arriving out of mainland China (not just Hubei Province) to self-isolate for a period of fourteen days.

**The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has issued updated isolation requirements for hotel & tourism operators**
The Chief Medical Officer today issued updated medical advice for hotel and tourism operators on the new requirements for self-isolation as follows

- Any person who left Hubei Province less than 14 days ago (isolate until 14 days after they left Hubei)
- Any identified close contacts of proven cases of novel coronavirus (isolate until 14 days after last contact with the proven case)
- Any person who left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 (isolate until 14 days after leaving China).

Updated factsheets are also available for [hotel management and staff](#) and [hotel guests](#).

**Qantas suspends flights to and from mainland China**
On 2 February Qantas announced a suspension of its two direct China flights effective 9 February to 29 March 2020 citing logistical challenges for rostering crew to operate these services in the wake of entry restrictions imposed by countries including Singapore and the United States. There is no change to Qantas services to Hong Kong.

**Confirmed cases of coronavirus continue to rise in Australia**
Twelve cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Australia, two in Queensland, two in South Australia, four in Victoria and four in New South Wales (as at 3 February). In addition, 17 cases that meet the suspected case definition have been reported by several states and territories and are under investigation: Victoria (9 cases), Western Australia (2 cases), and New South Wales (6 cases).

**BUSHFIRES**

**Escalation over the weekend – information & update**
The impact of the fires continues to be felt and presents Australian tourism with one of its greatest ever challenges. Over the weekend we saw the situation escalate in parts of NSW, ACT and VIC, however conditions have thankfully since eased with all fires burning at advice level or below. We will continue to regularly update the map and the [bushfire information page](#) on our website with the latest information on the situation as it unfolds.

**TA ACTIVITY**

**Revising activities in light of evolving situation**
Tourism Australia is continuing to regularly review its activities in light of the bushfires and coronavirus situation, with a focus on spreading the message to Australians and the world is that Australia is open for business and that the best way people can support tourism recovery is to visit. What we are reviewing at the moment is the timing of this activity.
Domestic campaign & approach
Our new domestic campaign, Holiday Here This Year, along with the bespoke business events iteration Event Here This Year, continues to be rolled out across the country with initial industry, media and consumer response having been positive. We are also reviewing this year’s ATE program and will be letting delegates know of some important changes in the coming days, which are aimed at making our flagship trade event more affordable to tourism operators who we know are doing it tough at the moment.

International campaign & approach
We are currently working on the details of our revised international approach, which will include a campaign and a comprehensive international media hosting program, and we will share more information about the international campaign shortly. We are also mobilising our distribution networks to ensure that Australian experiences are still being offered in this key sales period.