



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

**Chief Medical Officer**

Dear hotel and tourism operators,

Following previous correspondence, I am writing to provide further advice regarding the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19).

The situation in mainland China has not changed significantly over the last two weeks. Cases and mortality rates continue to rise in Hubei province, which remains locked down by Chinese authorities.

There continues to be a slower growth of cases in other mainland provinces of China. Cases have risen in Hong Kong and there is growth in exported cases to a number of countries including Thailand, Singapore and Japan.

Given this, and the success of the travel restrictions that have helped Australia to contain the virus, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee met today and recommended the current travel restrictions and advisories remain in place, to be reviewed in seven days.

The Prime Minister announced earlier this evening that the Australian Government has accepted the AHPPC's recommendations.

My colleagues and I recognise the significant impact on the tourism industry of our recent decisions to protect the Australian population from this virus.

We have not made these recommendations lightly and are very focused on ensuring our advice is proportionate.

Reducing entry into Australia by people who have been in mainland China has contributed to the effective management of self-isolation of recent arrivals.

To summarise, the following arrangements remain in place:

- Australia will deny entry to anyone who has left or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days, with the exception of Australian citizens, permanent residents, and immediate family members of Australian citizens and permanent residents including spouses, minor dependants and legal guardians.

- Australian citizens who have left or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving mainland China.
- People who have had close contact with a proven cases of novel coronavirus must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of last contact.

I would note again that the risk of transmission of the virus from people who are well is very low as most people are likely to only be infectious when they develop symptoms. It is as a precautionary measure that we are isolating people who remain well.

For those hotels which decide to have guests that require isolation, we have updated factsheets for hotel management and staff and hotel guests with the latest health advice and details on what actions to take. These are available to download and distribute from [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au).

We hope that these fact sheets will reassure staff and guests that the risks imposed by self-isolation of well people are very low.

If you or your staff do become aware of someone who should be in isolation and is not following health advice or have other public health concerns, contact your state or territory Public Health authority on the below numbers:

- ACT call 02 5124 9213 during business hours or (02) 9962 4155 after hours
- NSW call 1300 066 055
- NT call 08 8922 8044
- Qld call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
- SA call 1300 232 272
- Tas call 1800 671 738
- Vic call 1800 675 398
- WA call your local public health unit

We will continue to provide regular updates on this emerging situation at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

Professor Brendan Murphy  
Chief Medical Officer

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