

COVID-19 Situation

New travel restrictions, updated advice and screening to safeguard Australia from the Coronavirus

Following a meeting of the National Security Committee of Cabinet yesterday (5 March 2020), the Prime Minister [announced](#) the introduction of new travel restrictions, updated travel advice and the implementation of new screening measures as part of the Government's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the changing situation internationally. The measures are part of Australia's ongoing strategy of containment and minimising risk to the Australian community as detailed in its [Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Coronavirus](#) activated last week. A transcript of the Prime Minister's press conference explaining the rationale behind the Committee's decisions can be read [here](#).

Advice to tourism operators

The advice to tourism operators in relation to the new measures from Australia's Chief Medical Officer is also attached.

WHO – no declaration of pandemic – but raised global risk assessment

While the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) is yet to declare the Coronavirus as a global pandemic, it has raised its global risk assessment to 'very high' while stressing the need for countries to act to contain the virus. Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the WHO Director-General stated: *"This epidemic can be pushed back, but only with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach that engages the entire machinery of the government. We are calling on every country to act with speed, scale and clear-minded determination."*

Temporary border restrictions for travellers from China and Iran extended

The Government has extended temporary border restrictions for travellers from China and Iran. These restrictions will be reviewed again by 13 March 2020.

Temporary border restrictions for travellers from the Republic of Korea

Yesterday, border restrictions for travellers from Korea were increased to the same level as travellers from China and Iran. In particular:

- Foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) who are in the Republic of Korea will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days from the time they have left or transited through the country.
- Australian citizens will still be able to enter Australia as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependents only). They will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date they have left the Republic of Korea.

Increased travel advisories for travel to Korea

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has raised its travel advisory for the Republic of Korea to 'Reconsider Your Need to Travel' (level 3 of 4) up from 'Exercise a High Degree of Caution' (Level 2). The travel advice to the Korean city of Daegu has also been raised to the highest level – 'Do Not Travel' due to the significant outbreak of COVID-19 there.

Additional inbound screening procedures for travellers from Italy

For arrivals to Italy from Australia, enhanced health screening and temperature testing arrangements are now in place. Travellers arriving in Australia from Italy must present for health screening at the border. They are not required to self-isolate unless they are a healthcare or residential aged care worker, in which case they must not attend work for 14 days.

Coronavirus cases globally and in Australia

There have been approximately 98,000 confirmed cases of the Coronavirus (approximately 80,000 of which are in China) and over 3,300 deaths. Close to 54,000 people have recovered from the virus. Australia has reported 60 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 22 patients having made a full recovery.

In recent days, Australia has recorded its first cases of local transmission of COVID-19 and sadly the death of one person associated with the Diamond Princess cruise ship repatriation flight from Japan to the Northern Territory as well as an elderly person in an aged care facility.

Stay informed

As the Coronavirus situation continues to evolve, we encourage you to stay up to date with the latest information from the relevant authorities.

More information including [FAQs](#) about Coronavirus can be found on the Department of Health's [website](#) or [Australia.com](#) and travel advisories on DFAT's [Smart Traveller](#) site.