



Australian Government

Department of Health

Chief Medical Officer

Dear tourism industry operators,

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

There are signs the spread of the virus in China is slowing. However, Hubei province remains locked down by Chinese authorities.

In the past week there has been significant growth in the number of cases in countries others than China, including South Korea, Italy, and Iran. The situation in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore also remains a concern.

We have also seen a number of cases in the passengers evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

Evidence suggests the COVID-19 outbreak in Iran may be one of the largest outside of the Hubei province in China. Given this, the Government has introduced travel restrictions for Iran, mirroring the ones currently in place for China. Travel advice for Iran has been raised to Level 4 - 'Do Not Travel'.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) does not support further widespread application of travel restrictions to an increasing number of countries that have community transmission.

The AHPPC also believes that the current travel restrictions regarding mainland China continue to be successful in reducing the volume of travel from mainland China.

We recognise the significant impact on the tourism industry of our recent decisions to protect the Australian population from this virus.

These changes have not been made lightly and we are very focused on ensuring our advice is proportionate.

To summarise, in addition to the existing arrangements for mainland China, the following arrangements have been put in place for travellers from Iran:

- Effective immediately, Australia will deny entry to anyone who has left or transited through Iran 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 Iran in the last 14 days must isolate themselves for 14 days from the date of leaving Iran.
- 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 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.

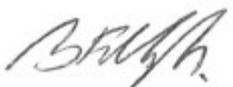
We hope that these fact sheets will reassure staff and guests that the risks imposed by self-isolation of well people are very low.

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 1300 651 160
- WA call 08 9328 0553

We will continue to provide regular updates at www.health.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Professor Brendan Murphy
Chief Medical Officer

2 March 2020