

Safety Briefing

Subject: Novel Coronavirus Update - COVID-19

Details:

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in late December 2019.

Important Information:

Can I go to work?

In the following scenarios staff **can not** go to work or volunteer if they have:

- left, or transited through mainland China, Italy, Iran or South Korea in the last 14 days (they must isolate themselves for 14 days)
- been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus in the last 14 days (they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case).

Employees and volunteers who are in isolation due to one of the above situations should alert their organisation. Depending on the type of work, and provided the employee is well, they may want to discuss alternative arrangements such as working from home. See the 'Isolation guidance' information sheets at www.health.gov.au

Symptoms

Symptoms include (but are not limited to) fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath.

How is the virus spread?

The virus is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct contact with a person whilst they are infectious;
- contact with droplets when a person with a confirmed infection coughs or sneezes; or
- touching objects or surfaces (such as doorknobs or tables) that were contaminated by droplets from secretions coughed or sneezed from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Who is most at risk of a serious illness?

- People who have recently been overseas
 - people with compromised immune systems;
 - elderly people;
 - very young children and babies;
 - people with diagnosed heart and lung conditions; and
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

How can we help prevent the spread of the virus?

Practising good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence:

- wash your hands often with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet;
- using anti-bacterial hand gel when hand washing facilities are unavailable, especially during deliveries;
- use disposable gloves if hand washing or sanitiser gel is not available, and
- avoid touching other people, and
- cough and sneeze into your elbow

Face masks are not currently recommended for use by healthy members of the public for the prevention of infections like novel coronavirus.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the Australian Government Department of Health homepage at www.health.gov.au.

Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

State public health authority (SA) call 1300 232 272

World Health Organisation <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>