

16 March 2020

NAT 008/20

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic Health advice from the Federal and State Governments

SUMMARY

It is essential for Members to keep up to date with health advice from the Federal and State Governments during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Governments' advice is being regularly updated and Members should review it often.

Also, the Australian Government and State Government have distributed a lot of materials to assist businesses to educate their employees about COVID-19 and the steps that everyone should take to reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

Government advice on COVID-19

Government health departments have released a significant amount of information about Coronavirus (COVID-19) including symptoms, how the virus is spread, how the disease may be prevented and details on the public health responses.

On 15 March, the Australian Government placed full-page Notices in newspapers providing important information about COVID-19. A copy of the information in the Notice is set out in **Attachment A**.

Government advice about the virus can be accessed through the following online resources:

Australian Government

- Department of Health: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Department of Health, Latest updates on COVID-19: [News](#)
- Department of Health: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) resources](#)

- Department of Health: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) public education campaign materials: Videos, print ads and radio ads](#)
- Department of Health: [COVID-19 - Information for employers](#)
- Department of Health: [COVID-19 - Information sheet for people with a suspected case](#)
- Department of Health: [Novel Coronavirus – Know the Signs poster](#)
- Department of Health: [Novel Coronavirus – Stop the Spread poster](#)

New South Wales Government

- [NSW Health website](#)
- NSW Health: [COVID 19 – Resources for businesses](#)
- NSW Health: [COVID-19 – Frequently asked questions](#)
- NSW Health: [Novel coronavirus – Latest Updates](#)

Victorian Government

- [Victorian Health and Community Services website](#)
- Victorian Health and Community Services: [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Victorian Health and Human Services: [About coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- Victorian Government: [health.vic media releases](#)

Queensland Government

- [Queensland Health website](#)
- Queensland Government: [Novel coronavirus](#)
- Queensland Government: [Novel coronavirus advice](#)
- Queensland Health: [Updates – Media releases](#)

South Australian Government

- [SA Health website](#)
- SA Health: [Health Alerts](#)

Western Australian Government

- [WA Department of Health website](#)
- WA Department of Health – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Tasmanian Government

- [Tasmanian Department of Health website](#)
- Tasmanian Department of Health: [Novel coronavirus](#)
- Tasmanian Department of Health: [Updates](#)

ACT Government

- [ACT Department of Health website](#)

Northern Territory Government

- [Northern Territory Department of Health website](#)

Do you require further advice?

Public health information and advice about COVID-19 can be obtained by calling one of the following numbers:

- **Coronavirus Health Information Line – 1800 020 080** (operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- **Public Health Information Line – 1800 044 599**
- **Health Direct – 1800 022 222**
- **State and Territory Public Health Agencies:**

NSW - 1300 066 055

VIC - 1300 651 160

QLD - 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)

SA - 1300 232 272

WA - Contact the relevant [public health unit](#)

TAS - 1800 671 738

ACT - 02 5124 9213

NT - 08 8922 8044

Do you require further advice?

For information or assistance relating to any workplace relations or work health and safety issues, please contact the **Ai Group Workplace Advice Service** on 1300 55 66 77.



Stephen Smith
Head of National Workplace Relations Policy

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – 15 MARCH 2020

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

As you will no doubt be aware, COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus) has affected many around the world, including Australians both at home and overseas. COVID-19 is a new viral infection that can give people flu or cold-like symptoms, including sore throat, fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It can however have serious consequences for a percentage of cases, particularly the elderly and vulnerable.

Although you may have heard a lot about this new virus in the news or online, it is important to keep up-to-date with information and advice provided by official Government sources including by visiting health.gov.au, following the Australian Department of Health on social media, and via credible news sources.

The Australian Government has increased screening measures for international arrivals and banned non-Australian citizens arriving from highly infected countries. We strongly recommend you consider your need to travel overseas and check smartraveller.gov.au for the latest advice.

You can prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections by making sure you:

- **Wash** your hands frequently with soap and water
- **Cover** your cough/sneeze and dispose of tissues
- **Avoid** contact with others if you're feeling unwell

At this stage you should **only** be tested for COVID-19 if you are experiencing flu or cold-like symptoms **and** have recently returned from overseas, **or** have been in direct contact with someone who is known to have contracted coronavirus. Additional testing may also be appropriate for healthcare workers.

If you start to develop symptoms, there are four ways you can receive medical assistance:

- Your local GP (be sure to phone ahead)
- Your local Emergency Department
- Specific respiratory clinics currently being established around the country
- Via Telehealth such as using your phone, Skype, or FaceTime

If you're unsure about what to do, call the Coronavirus Information Line on **1800 020 080**.

Australia has one of the best health systems in the world with some of the most dedicated and experienced health professionals. Containing the spread of an infection like COVID-19 comes down to every Australian playing their part by looking after their own hygiene, looking out for each other, and staying informed.

Hon Scott Morrison
Prime Minister

Hon Greg Hunt
Health Minister

Professor Brendan Murphy
Chief Medical Officer