



Novel Coronavirus Information Sheet

There is currently an outbreak of a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in mainland China.

This fact sheet is for vessels which have been in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020, or have people on board who have been in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020, or have people on board who have been in contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days.

Vessels that are not subject to the coronavirus requirements will follow the standard reporting and arrival procedures for Australia including reporting of ill or deceased persons.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Symptoms of coronavirus include fever, cough, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia that requires immediate medical attention.

What is Australia doing?

Australia has put in place extra border measures, health screening and isolation recommendations for people and vessels travelling to Australia from mainland China.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment is in contact with international vessels to ensure they understand the requirements and comply with pre-arrival reporting of ill travellers.

Information is being provided to travellers at international ports explaining the symptoms of coronavirus and encouraging them to report to biosecurity officers if they have symptoms while in the port.

On 1 February 2020, Australia introduced isolation and additional border recommendations for people arriving in Australia who have left or transited through mainland China on or after this date.

For the cruise industry, these new requirements only apply to vessels which meet the additional coronavirus requirements listed below.

What vessels have additional coronavirus requirements?

- Vessels that have left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- Vessels with crew or passengers who have left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- Vessels that have had ill crew or passengers on board in the past 14 days.
- Vessels that have crew or passengers who have been in contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

What happens to vessels subject to the coronavirus requirements?

Crew and passengers on board these vessels may be subject to additional health screening and self-isolation requirements when disembarking in Australia.

What should vessels do if a passenger or crew member is ill?

As per the normal process, all ill passengers and crew should be referred to the ship's doctor for assessment. The ship's doctor will be informed of the current status of coronavirus and will be able to assess the risk based on travel history and exposure.

There are [interim Australian guidelines](#) for the management of suspected cases of coronavirus that may be of assistance.

What is the cruise industry required to report?

As per the normal process, all cruise vessels entering Australian territory are legally required to report ill passengers and crew presenting on the pre-arrival report via the Maritime Arrivals Reporting System (MARS).

A biosecurity officer will then meet the vessel to screen for coronavirus and other serious infectious diseases. Biosecurity officers do this by administering the Traveller with Illness Checklist (TIC) to the ill passenger or crew member, or by discussing case diagnoses with the ship's doctor. A biosecurity officer or human biosecurity officer may then issue directions for the management of a suspected case of coronavirus which are legally required to be followed.

All vessels entering Australian territory may be asked additional questions about:

- whether the vessel left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- whether any crew or passengers left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- whether any crew or passengers have been in contact with confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in the previous 14 days.

What if someone requires medical attention?

If a person is very ill and needs further medical attention, notifying a biosecurity officer will not interfere with having a vessel met by medical or ambulance services. The operator of the vessel is responsible for requesting medical or ambulance services. The operator should inform medical or ambulance services if anyone on board has travelled to mainland China or been in contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, or if the vessel has been in, or transited through, mainland China.

What is self-isolation?

If any crew and passengers are entering Australia and are required to self-isolate, they must self-isolate in their intended residence or accommodation. Self-isolation means they should not attend public places, in particular work, school, childcare or university. Also, they should not have visitors to their residence or accommodation. Detailed information can be found at www.health.gov.au

Can disembarking crew or passengers who are required to self-isolate fly home within Australia?

Yes. They may have to undergo health screening at the port after disembarking. Providing they have no signs or symptoms of coronavirus, people can fly domestically in Australia to reach their home. However, they must wear a surgical mask until they reach their home.

Is there information available for passengers and crew?

The Department of Health is providing additional communication material for travellers (including passengers and crew) at Australian international airports and seaports. This material informs travellers about coronavirus and what to do if they have come from a risk area and are ill. The information sheets are updated regularly and are available at <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-coronavirus#resources>

How can I reduce the risk to passengers and crew?

Crew should be advised to continue to follow existing employer infection prevention work instructions when in contact with ill passengers, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when recommended by employer work instructions.

Person to person spread of the coronavirus is reported as occurring, but it is not yet understood how easily this happens. The following measures will help reduce the risk of illness on board vessels:

- Vessels should promote good cough and sneeze hygiene among crew and passengers.
- Vessels should undertake appropriate cleaning and disinfection activities.
- People should wash their hands frequently with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- People should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed or gloved hands.
- If personal protective equipment (PPE) is recommended, it should be worn properly.
- Where possible, people should stay one metre or more away from passengers or crew with symptoms of coronavirus unless wearing appropriate PPE as per employer work instructions.
- Follow the [interim Australian guidelines for nCoV](#) where appropriate.

Other information

While coronavirus is of concern and we remain vigilant, it is currently influenza season in the northern hemisphere. It is more likely that travellers displaying infectious symptoms have a common respiratory infection, rather than coronavirus.

The Department of Health is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Australian states and territories.

Where can I get more information about coronavirus?

For human biosecurity questions:

- Contact the Maritime National Co-ordination Centre 1300 004 605 (operating hours 6am-6pm Australian Central Standard Time , for urgent after hours enquiries call +61 417 666 648)

For general coronavirus questions:

- Visit www.health.gov.au
- Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- If you need to communicate with a non-English speaking person, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National). Telephone interpreters are available immediately on 131 450.