

Safety Bulletin No.	2020 02	Date Issued	12 th February 2020
Subject	Novel Coronavirus		
Area of Concern	Information for airport stakeholders		
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Introduction

This bulletin has been produced to provide airport stakeholders with the latest information from the Australian Government Department of Health. NT Airports (NTA) recommended actions in relation to the Novel Coronavirus outbreak will align with this guidance material and this bulletin must be read in conjunction with the latest revision of the *Australian Government Department of Health – Information Sheet for Border Staff*.

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some can cause illnesses similar to the common cold while other coronaviruses cause more serious illness, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

There is a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) primarily affecting people who have recently been in mainland China or had contact with sick people from mainland China. It's likely that the coronavirus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in Australia, but there are no confirmed cases in the Northern Territory.

Controls

On Saturday afternoon, 1st February, the Prime Minister announced an escalation of advice for outbound travellers not to travel to China (Level 4), and restrictions on all travellers inbound from mainland China. Darwin Airport has been working closely with the authorities to support these efforts as seamlessly as possible. There are currently no inbound flights from China arriving in Darwin.

To capture ill travellers who may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV, the Department of Health has included additional questions on the Traveller with Illness Checklist (TIC) for biosecurity officers to administer. The Department of Agriculture is in contact with airlines to ensure compliance with pre-reporting requirements of ill travellers.

The following measures will also help reduce the risk further:

- Practise and promote frequent handwashing.
- Where possible, stay 1 metre or more away from travellers who are ill.
- Practise and promote good respiratory (cough) etiquette.
- Undertake appropriate cleaning and disinfection activities.
- Use of PPE if close contact with an ill traveller is required.

Whilst the risk in Darwin remains low, NTA advises all stakeholders to ensure they put in place appropriate mitigation measures in accordance with the Department of Health Information Sheets.

Related Information

Websites for more information are below:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

THINK SAFELY, ACT SAFELY