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### **The Hon. Scott Morrison MP**

Prime Minister

### **Senator The Hon. Marise Payne**

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister for Women

### **The Hon. Peter Dutton MP**

Minister for Home Affairs

### **The Hon. Greg Hunt MP**

Minister for Health

## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday 1 February 2020

## UPDATED TRAVEL ADVICE TO PROTECT AUSTRALIANS FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

The National Security Committee of Cabinet met again today to consider new and urgent information regarding the novel coronavirus situation.

Based on updated health advice from the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the increased risk posed by the spread of novel coronavirus, we have decided to introduce strict new travel restrictions and new travel advice.

Effective immediately, foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents) who are in mainland China from today forward, will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days from the time they have left or transited through mainland China.

Australian citizens and permanent residents will still be able to enter, as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependants only). This exemption will be extended to airline crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment.

I want to assure Australians that we are doing everything we can, through these increased actions, to protect Australians and keep them safe from what is an escalating threat.

This is a temporary measure, which will be reviewed in 14 days.

Any foreign nationals who do arrive in Australia notwithstanding the prohibition, and who choose not to immediately return to their port of origin, will be subject to mandatory quarantine.

We will also be requiring Australian citizens, permanent residents and their families who do enter Australia and who have been in mainland China to self-isolate for 14 days from the time they left mainland China.

Further, enhanced screening arrangements will be effected at ports of entry. The Government will make 500,000 masks available for airport and port staff and arriving passengers and handheld thermometers will be made available at impacted ports.

We will also raise the travel advice to Australians for all of mainland China to Level Four – “Do not travel.”

We have not taken any of these decisions lightly. Over the past month we have consistently relied on expert advice, including from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, based on the advice of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia. Their advice has guided the decision to announce these new measures today.

In particular, the changing epidemiology of the coronavirus in China and the uncertainty that remains around its transmission and virulence, mean the utmost precaution is warranted.

There is no basis for alarm. It is important to remember the risk to Australians is currently very low. We need to keep it that way.

Australia is well-prepared to respond to these challenges. We have been assessed by the World Health Organization as a world leader in preparedness for pandemics.

The Australian Government continues to monitor and respond to the coronavirus outbreak as it evolves.

We will work in close cooperation with state Government authorities and our international partners to coordinate our response and keep Australians safe.

**[END]**

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**The Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Sydney**

# Travel restrictions to Australia as a result of the Coronavirus - effective immediately

Travellers arriving from any part of mainland China, regardless of nationality, will be subject to enhanced border control measures to ensure health, safety and well-being of Australians.

The Australian Government has announced that as of **1 February 2020**, all travellers arriving from any part of mainland China, regardless of nationality, will be subject to enhanced border control measures to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the Australian community.

Australia will **deny entry** to anyone who has left or transited mainland China from 1 February, with the exception of Australian citizens, permanent residents, **immediate family members of Australian citizens and permanent residents including spouses, minor dependents and legal guardians**

- Limited exemptions also exist for airline and maritime crew, where they have taken appropriate precautionary measures.
- These enhanced public safety measures will apply to those seeking to enter Australia as well as those seeking to transit through Australia en route to another country.

The government websites are constantly updated and are the most reliable source of information:

For travel restrictions to Australia:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=355>

Home Affairs and Visa information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=351>

For the latest information on the virus visit the Department of Health:

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

For yesterday's Press Release by the Prime Minister of Australia re Coronavirus see here:

[Press-Release-Morrison-Coronavirus.pdf](#)

For the joint Press Release by Prime Minister Morrison, Minister Payne, Dutton, and Hunt see here:

[Press-Release-Morrison-Payne-Dutton-Hunt.pdf](#)

Coronavirus and Higher Education: Statement by Tan Tehan, Minister for Education:  
[Coronavirus-and-higher-education----Statement-from-Minister-for-Education-Dan-Tehan.pdf](#)

Qantas Airlines Coronavirus travel update:  
<https://www.qantas.com/au/en/travel-info/travel-updates/coronavirus.html>

Always check the government websites for the latest information. Second-hand information may not be a reliable source, or provide up to the minute information.