

Important information: Coronavirus

30 January 2020

Queensland Health has updated its advice to schools regarding the Coronavirus. Although Queensland Health says the risk to the Australian public is still relatively low it has recommended increased safety measures.

The key advice is that any staff or students who have visited China (including Hong Kong) must not attend school and should self isolate at home (which means staying at home and not accepting visitors) for 14 days after leaving China. This advice also covers visitors to schools including parents and caregivers.

Queensland Health has also emphasised the importance of general hygiene at this critical time:

“Practising good hand and respiratory hygiene may help protect against infections. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow, dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards. Wash your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating”

It is important that all schools take action consistent with this advice. The safety and wellbeing of our staff, students, and the wider community is paramount.

Further information on the current advice is provided through this link:

<https://qed.qld.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media/novel-coronavirus>

Department of Education

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Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) advice

You may be aware of reports of an emerging outbreak of coronavirus in China. The virus is believed to have originated in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province in China and there have now been confirmed cases elsewhere in China and in other countries including Australia.

The risk to the Australian public remains relatively low.

The current public health advice is provided below:

- anyone who has been in contact with any confirmed novel coronavirus cases must self-isolate (self-isolation means staying at home and not accepting visitors) for 14 days following exposure
- travellers who have visited Hubei Province of China need to self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province
- returned travellers who have visited China cannot attend school, childcare or TAFE for 14 days after leaving China including Hong Kong.

The safety and wellbeing of our staff, students, and the wider community is paramount.

The Queensland Department of Education has been working closely with health authorities in relation to the management of this matter.

General hygiene

Practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene may help protect against infections. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow, dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards. Wash your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating.

Important information

Updates and general information regarding coronavirus are available via the following channels.

Queensland Health

- [Novel Coronavirus \(http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus\)](http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus)

Australian Federal Department of Health

- [Latest updates and information regarding novel coronavirus \(https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov\)](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov)