



Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Information for higher education and vocational education facilities

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in late December 2019.

Exclusion from higher education or vocational educational facility

If a student or staff member has been informed by health authorities that they are a close contact of a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and have developed symptoms (listed below), they are advised to contact their local Public Health unit for assessment (see contacts on page 2). They cannot attend the higher education or vocational education facility until Public Health informs them that it is safe for them to do so. If they have not developed symptoms, they should monitor their health closely but should not be excluded from attending higher education or vocational education facility.

If a student or staff member has a recent travel history to mainland China and develops symptoms (listed below), they should contact their primary care provider. Their primary care provider will liaise with Public Health units and determine whether or not the student/staff member needs to be excluded from the higher education or vocational education facility.

If a student or staff member has travelled to mainland China and has not developed any of the symptoms (listed below), they may attend the higher education or vocational education facility and should not be excluded.

What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It had not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms include (but are not limited to) fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath.

What if, in the last 14 days, a student or staff member has been to Hubei Province?

Provide them with the fact sheet and counsel them to monitor their health closely and report any symptoms to their primary care provider in the first instance who will liaise with the public health agency in your state or territory (details below).

What if, in the last 14 days, a student or staff member has been in close contact with someone who has 2019-nCoV?

Provide them with the fact sheet and inform them that they need to need to monitor their health closely and report symptoms to their primary care provider. Their primary care provider will liaise with the public health agency to determine if it is safe for them to return to the higher education or vocational education facility.

What if I have a student or staff member who is sick within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, or in contact with a confirmed case of 2019-CoV?

If a student/staff member develops mild symptoms, they should:

- isolate themselves in a single room away from others and seek an urgent medical review
- when possible, isolate themselves at home while waiting for results of the assessment
- call a doctor or hospital ahead of time and tell them they may have novel coronavirus infection
- tell the doctor's clinic or hospital again when they arrive that they may have novel coronavirus infection.

If the student/staff has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- call **000** and request an ambulance
- inform the paramedics that the student/staff may have novel coronavirus infection.

Staff and students with symptoms should be excluded from attending the higher education or vocational education facility until they are assessed by their primary care provider. The primary care provider will liaise with the public health authorities to determine when it is safe for them to return to higher education or vocational education.

How can we help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses.

Encourage all students and staff to:

- wash their hands often with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- avoid contact with others (including touching, kissing, hugging, and other intimate contact)
- cough and sneeze into their elbow.

Where can I get more information?

Visit the Australian Government Department of Health homepage at www.health.gov.au.

Call the Public Health Information Line on 1800 044 599.

Discuss any questions you have with the Public Health Agency monitoring you.

Contact your state or territory public health agency:

- ACT call 02 5124 9213
- NSW call 1300 066 055
- NT call 08 8922 8044
- Qld call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
- SA call 1300 232 272
- Tas call 1800 671 738
- Vic call 1300 651 160
- WA visit <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/> or call your [local public health unit](#)