



# Coronavirus (COVID-19) health alert

The World Health Organization has announced that COVID-19 is a pandemic. Find out how we are monitoring and responding to the outbreak, how you can help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia, and what to do if you have symptoms. We also report the latest official medical advice and case numbers.

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Alert status  
**Active**

Last updated  
**17 March 2020**

## On this page

## Current status

The situation is changing rapidly. Stay up to date with the latest information about the spread of COVID-19 and the steps being taken to slow the spread.

### Stay informed

Read the latest announcements about COVID-19 and up-to-date advice for your situation.

- [News and media related to COVID-19](#)
- [Resources on COVID-19](#)

### Current status in Australia

For daily reports of reported COVID-19 cases, go to [current situation and case numbers](#).

For what we're doing to slow the spread, go to [Government response to COVID-19](#).

## How to protect yourself and others

Everyone must practise good hygiene to protect against infection and prevent the virus

spreading.



If you have a confirmed case, you need to isolate yourself to prevent it spreading to other people.

### What you can do

We can all help to slow the spread of COVID-19 in Australia.

Read [protect yourself and others](#) for advice on good hygiene, self-isolation, and social distancing.

To help protect [people most at risk](#), follow our advice on [public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups](#).

## Symptoms and when to get tested

### Symptoms

[Symptoms](#) include fever, coughing, sore throat, fatigue, and shortness of breath.

If you have **serious symptoms** such as difficulty breathing, **call 000** for urgent medical help.

### When to get tested

If you develop symptoms within 14 days of last contact with a confirmed case or of returning to Australia, you should [seek medical attention](#). Your doctor will tell you if you need to [get tested](#).

## If you're concerned

Call the Coronavirus Health Information Line for advice. If you require translating or interpreting services, call 131 450.

### Coronavirus Health Information Line

Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus (COVID-19). The line

operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

 [1800 020 080](tel:1800020080)

[View contact](#)

## Additional advice

### Travellers

Our [advice for travellers](#) provides information on airport and in-flight biosecurity measures, travel restrictions and other arrangements that apply.

### Health and aged care sector

Our [advice for the health and aged care sector](#) includes Public Health Unit guidelines, epidemiology reports and other resources.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

#### Tags:

Communicable diseases

Emergency health management

Travel health

## More about this alert

### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

News and media

Current situation and case numbers

What you need to know

Advice for public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups

Advice for travellers

Advice for the health and aged care sector

Government response

Resources

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)

## About Health

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[Corporate reporting](#)

[Portfolio agencies](#)

[Contact us](#)

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