



# 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  
**18 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

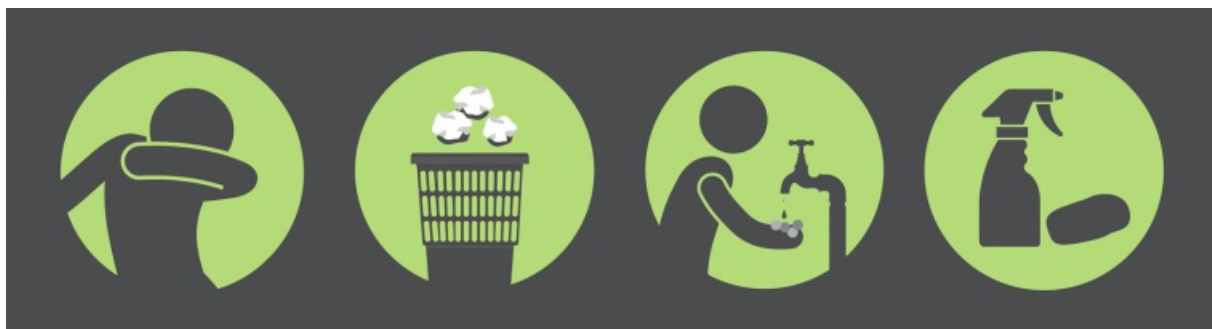
For daily reports of reported COVID-19 cases, go to [current situation and case numbers](#).

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

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