



Department of Education and Training

Office of the Secretary

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Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, the situation regarding the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus has continued to evolve.

The Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer have this afternoon recommended a stronger precautionary approach to managing coronavirus for travellers returned from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) from today (1 February 2020).

This recommendation is that any student returning from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) who was in mainland China on or after **1 February 2020** is isolated at home and should not attend their TAFE or training provider or until 14 days after they were last in mainland China.

This recommendation does not apply retrospectively. It applies only to students who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020.

The existing advice remains that any student is isolated at home and should not attend their TAFE or training provider for 14 days:

- following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case; or
- after leaving Hubei Province.

This same advice applies to any impacted staff.

The Commonwealth has also advised that: "additional border measures will be implemented to deny entry to Australia to people who have left or transited through mainland China from 1 February 2020, with the exception of Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family and air crews who have been using appropriate personal protective equipment".

TAFEs and training providers should inform their staff and students of this new advice through your communication channels.

Please refer to the Department's [coronavirus web page](#), where the latest advice including factsheets (with translations) will be uploaded as soon as available.

Additional advice and information on the steps to take can be found on the [coronavirus web page](#) which also includes advice on:

- international travel
- maintaining good health hygiene
- health promotion posters and materials
- information, resources and contacts related to coronavirus.

This new advice is based on the latest expert recommendations of the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer.

Thank you for your continued support and work to ensure the health and wellbeing of your community.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Pitcher
Deputy Secretary
Higher Education and Skills
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