



Sunday, 2 February 2020

FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear colleagues

Further to my email on Friday, there has been a significant change in the Australian Government's national response to the novel coronavirus 2019 – nCoV (coronavirus), which changes our advice to staff and students.

New travel and health warnings now apply and must be followed by all staff and students within the University community. Please note, these are precautionary measures, which are being instituted nationwide to prevent the spread of coronavirus in Australia.

I also want to acknowledge that this is a particularly challenging time for Chinese staff and students and we will continue to support them as this situation evolves.

- **Travel** – the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has issued new travel advice. The recommendation is do not travel to China due to the increased risk of contracting the coronavirus.

As a result the University will not be able to approve any travel into China for staff and students, in line with this recommendation and to ensure that staff and students do not become quarantined while travelling.

We have also been advised by the government that any foreign nationals, who have been in mainland China in the preceding 14 days, will not be allowed entry into Australia. This advice will be reviewed in 14 days by the government. With this in mind, I strongly encourage any staff or students in this situation, to delay their travel until after this time.

- **Health** – in line with the Department of Health recommendations, any Australian citizens or permanent residents returning from China must isolate themselves in their home for 14 days upon their return to Australia, and monitor for symptoms.

Anyone who believes they have been in exposed to coronavirus should also isolate themselves in their home for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.

Staff and students will not be penalised for home isolation which is in line with Australian Government advice.

This means, they should not attend public places, in particular work, school, childcare or public areas of university and higher education campuses, for example attending lectures. There is further information in our FAQs attached.

The safety of our students, staff and community is always our number one priority.

Our university response team is actively and closely monitoring events as the situation continues to evolve rapidly around the world. Our staff are liaising with federal health officials and DFAT and are ready to act on their directions as the situation evolves.

Links to information from health authorities and DFAT

Please read the attached FAQs for further information.

Other important resources to follow include:

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – travel to and within China](#)

[Department of Health update](#)

[Q&A on coronaviruses, WHO](#)

Best regards

Professor Helen Bartlett

Vice-Chancellor and President