

Coronavirus response - Federation University Australia

31 January 2020

Dear *|FName|*,

As you are aware, Australian and international authorities are currently dealing with an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, in China.

I wanted to provide you with an update on the Federation University Australia's response to the novel coronavirus and links to further information to ensure you have accurate and timely information.

The safety of our students, staff and community is always our number one priority. We are actively and closely monitoring events as the situation continues to evolve rapidly around the world.

We have set up a university response team so that we are prepared should the situation escalate. Our staff are liaising with federal health officials and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and are ready to act on their directions as the situation evolves.

The University has prepared a [FAQ on our response to the novel coronavirus](#), to ensure you understand:

- What is the novel coronavirus and its symptoms?
- Travel advice for staff and students
- Advice if students need to delay commencement, exams or defer enrolment
- Steps that we are taking to ensure the health and safety of all living on campus

Advice on seeking medical assessment if you believe you are impacted.

Latest recommendations

All students must also follow the latest recommendations from the [Department of Health](#) and this also applies to all University staff:

- People who have been in contact with any confirmed novel coronavirus cases must be isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure
- Returned travellers who have been in the Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care.

The Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services' has set up a dedicated novel coronavirus hotline on **1800 675 398** to help you through the steps if you need to seek a medical assessment or advice.

Travel advice

Federation University has ceased all student, staff and official University travel to the Hubei province of China at this time, in line with [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel recommendations](#).

In line with the [Australian Government travel recommendations](#), the University is urging students and staff to reconsider any travel to all of China.

Should I attend Federation University or TAFE classes?

At this stage, regular classes and activities are planned to continue as normal.

Students and staff are expected to undertake regular activities unless you have symptoms and:

- had close contact with someone within the past 14 days who had signs of the virus and a history of being in Wuhan, China, or
- had close contact with someone who has a confirmed or suspected case of novel coronavirus.

Students and staff attending classes will be asked to self-exclude from classes if they feel unwell or are experiencing [symptoms](#). They will not be penalised.

Links to information from health authorities and DFAT

You can find the [Federation University novel coronavirus FAQ](#) via the News page on our website.

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

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

[Department of Health update](#)

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

On a final note, we value our long-standing collegiate relationship with China and will continue to support our Chinese students and colleagues through this challenging time.

Best regards,

Professor Helen Bartlett
Vice-Chancellor and President
Federation University Australia



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