



Novel Coronavirus Information Sheet for International Flights

There is currently an outbreak of a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Wuhan, Hubei Province China.

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus that can affect humans and animals. Some coronaviruses cause illness similar to the common cold while other coronaviruses cause more serious illness, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is primarily affecting people who have recently been in the city of Wuhan, China, or had contact with sick people from Wuhan.

What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?

Symptoms of 2019-nCoV may include fever, cough, vomiting, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia that requires immediate medical attention.

What should I do if a passenger or crew member is unwell?

Passengers or crew experiencing fever, sweats or chills should be separated from other travellers where possible as a precaution, with at least one spare seat on either side or a window seat with a spare seat next to them. Ideally, the row should be kept empty.

If available, a surgical mask should be given to the ill passenger or crew member to wear.

- Flight attendants should wear gloves when handling and receiving items from affected passengers and ensure removal of gloves when dealing with other passengers.
- Crew should use hand sanitiser following contact with any passenger or other crew.
- If possible, allocate a specific toilet/lavatory for the use of affected passengers/crew only.

What are aircraft required to report?

All aircraft entering Australian territory are legally required to report ill passengers and crew on the pre-arrival report. A biosecurity officer will then meet the aircraft to screen for 2019-nCoV and other listed human diseases. Biosecurity officers do this by administering the Traveller with Illness Checklist (TIC) to the ill passenger or crew member. A biosecurity officer or human biosecurity officer may then issue directions for the management of a suspected case of nCoV which are legally required to be followed.

Is there information available for passengers and crew?

The Australian Government Department of Health is providing additional communication material for travellers (including passengers and crew) at all Australian international airports and seaports. This material informs travellers about 2019-nCoV and what to do if they have

come from a risk area and are unwell. The information sheets are updated as significant developments take place and are also available at <https://www.health.gov.au/information-about-novel-coronavirus>.

How can I reduce the risk to passengers and crew?

Crew should be advised to continue to follow their existing infection prevention work instructions when in contact with ill passengers, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when recommended by employer work instructions.

While the infection does not currently appear to spread easily between people, the following measures will also help reduce the risk of spread:

- Crew and passengers should be encouraged to practise frequent handwashing.
- Where possible, crew should stay 1 metre or more away from passengers who are ill unless wearing appropriate PPE.
- Aircraft should promote good respiratory (cough) etiquette among crew and passengers.
- Aircraft should undertake appropriate cleaning and disinfection activities.
- Aircraft should promote the use of appropriate PPE for crew if close contact with an ill passenger is required.

Other information

While 2019-nCoV is of concern, it is important to remember that it is currently influenza season in the northern hemisphere. It is likely that the majority of travellers displaying infectious symptoms have a common respiratory infection, rather than 2019-nCoV. However 2019-nCoV vigilance is important.

The Australian Department of Health is closely monitoring the 2019-nCoV situation in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Australian states and territories. Up to date information on 2019-nCoV is available at www.health.gov.au.