

# 48-hour Review of Travel Restrictions

## Purpose

- To provide health advice on continued requirements for travel restrictions. This is the **third** such review and is current at **1400 on 08 February 2020**.

## Key messages

- The Ministry recommends that the current travel restrictions **remain in place** due to:
  - no evidence of a sustained decrease in the number of confirmed cases and deaths
  - no softening of risk assessment levels or lifting of travel restrictions in other countries.

## Further information

- On 08 February it is recommended that current travel restrictions **remain in place** due to:
  - the continuing rising number of cases in mainland China. (24 hour increase of **3,151** confirmed cases, **962** reported as severe)
  - the increasing number of deaths in mainland China. (24 hour increase of **73** deaths)
  - a spike in the number of cases in Australia and the wider Western Pacific Region suggesting risk in the Pacific region remains high.
- Our case definition is broad and adopts a cautious, pre-emptive approach due to the severity of the illness. The numbers provided below therefore reflect this precautionary approach.
- There are **0** suspected and **0** confirmed cases in New Zealand. Since becoming a notifiable disease on 31 January 2020 the national notifiable disease database (EpiSurv) has:
  - recorded **25** cases that have returned a negative result
  - closed **36** as 'not a case' (e.g. patient diagnosed with non-nCoV disease)
  - **12** cases are currently under investigation. None of these appear to have a high likelihood of being confirmed as a case.
- The international picture has not significantly shifted from when the travel restrictions were announced. The risk remains high and there is no evidence of a sustained decrease in the number of reported cases in mainland China and internationally; and there is no suggestion that the overall risk profile is reducing.

- Our assessment against the high-level review criteria is:

#	High-level criteria	Ministry comment
1	Evolving epidemiology of the outbreak	<p>There is no evidence of sustained decrease in the daily number of confirmed cases or deaths. There have now been 638 deaths recorded with two deaths reported outside of mainland China.</p> <p>More positively, the number of recovered cases is steadily increasing.</p>
2	Emerging evidence about transmissibility	<p>No new evidence has emerged that conclusively shows a reduction in the risk of transmission.</p> <p>s 9(2)(g)(i)</p> <p>A further paper has been published about the incubation period of 2019-nCoV. The latest paper would continue to support using 14 days as an operational definition for contact tracing and monitoring.</p>
3	Emerging evidence about severity of illness	<p>No new evidence has emerged that conclusively shows a reduction in the severity of illness. The latest WHO report classifies around 15% of cases as severe and mortality rates remain largely static at ~2%.</p> <p>An epidemiological report of the first 12 cases in Australia has been published. 11 of these cases developed mild to moderate symptoms and one case was admitted to intensive care.</p>
4	WHO advice on travel restrictions	WHO continues to advise that no travel restrictions are required.

5	Public health measures in other countries	<p>Multiple countries continue to enforce travel restrictions and international risk assessments remain high.</p> <p>Australia has 15 confirmed cases and a further 165 under investigation (includes cases that meet the case definition AND people tested by clinicians who may not meet the definition).</p>
---	---	---

- *This advice has been reviewed by the Ministry's and Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisors, Dr Ian Town and Professor Juliet Gerrard.*

Proactively Released