

48-hour Review of Travel Restrictions

Purpose

- To provide health advice on continued requirements for travel restrictions. This is the **fourth** such review and is current at **1400 on 10 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.
 - extension of travel restrictions in China i.e. “closed off management” in Zhejiang province near Shanghai.

Further information

- On 10 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 **2,657** confirmed cases),
 - the increasing number of deaths in mainland China. (24 hour increase of **89** deaths)
 - a 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 **31** cases that have returned a negative result
 - closed **40** as ‘not a case’ (e.g. patient diagnosed with non-nCoV disease)
 - **10** 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 812 deaths recorded in China and 2 outside of 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>
4	WHO advice on travel restrictions	<p>WHO continues to advise that no travel restrictions are required.</p>
5	Public health measures in other countries	<p>Multiple countries continue to enforce travel restrictions and international risk assessments remain high.</p>

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