



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Update on Novel Coronavirus: Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Order 2020

**Portfolio**                      **Health**

On 28 January 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that while the risk of spread to New Zealand is low, the current outbreak in China of novel coronavirus is capable of being transmitted between human beings and poses a potentially serious risk to public health;
- 2        **noted** the update from the Minister of Health on the coronavirus outbreak and the New Zealand response to date;
- 3        **noted** that the infectious disease notification and management provisions in the Health Act 1956 apply only to named infectious diseases as specified in Schedule 1 of the Act;
- 4        **agreed** that Section B of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Health Act 1956 is the correct placement for novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness, in order to make the disease notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health and apply the disease management provisions in Part 3A of the Act;
- 5        **noted** that the Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Order 2020 gives effect to the above proposal;
- 6        **noted** that a waiver of the 28-day rule is sought:
  - 6.1.1        so that the order can come into force on 30 January 2020;
  - 6.1.2        on the grounds that urgent action is warranted to address the public health risk of transmission of the novel coronavirus in New Zealand;
  - 6.2        **agreed** to a waiver of the 28-day rule;
- 7        **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Infectious and Notifiable Diseases Order 2020 [PCO 22705/3.0].

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

#### Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health