



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Novel Coronavirus: Update and Enhanced Border Measures

**Portfolio**                      **Health**

On 1 February 2020, Cabinet met at 8.00 pm by way of teleconference to receive an update on the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** the updated public health advice provided by officials on the novel coronavirus outbreak and the proposed enhanced border measures;
- 2        **noted** the advice provided by officials regarding the economic impact of the proposed enhanced border measures;
- 3        **noted** the recommendation from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, recommending a change in official travel advice for China to Level 4, “do not travel to any part of mainland China”;
- 4        **noted** that Australia is taking further measures to enhance its border controls in response to the outbreak and that officials will provide further advice to the group of Ministers with Power to Act;
- 5        **noted** that a precautionary health-based approach will be taken to manage the response;
- 6        **authorised** a group of Ministers comprising the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Tourism, Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Minister of Health and Minister for Trade and Export Growth to have Power to Act to take decisions on New Zealand’s response to the novel coronavirus outbreak and proposed enhanced border measures;

### Decisions by Ministers with Power to Act

On 2 February 2020, Ministers with Power to Act:

- 7        agreed that the following border measures be implemented to strengthen the New Zealand border response:
  - 7.1      extend the travel history in the case definition for novel coronavirus infection to include travel to mainland China (previously this was Hubei province in China, particularly Wuhan);

- 7.2 entry to New Zealand to be denied to people who have left or transited through mainland China from 2 February 2020, with the exception of:
- 7.2.1 New Zealand citizens (including those from the three countries of the Realm);
  - 7.2.2 permanent resident visa holders; or
  - 7.2.3 resident visa holders granted in New Zealand; or
  - 7.2.4 resident visa holders arriving in New Zealand for a second or subsequent time as the holder of the visa;
  - 7.2.5 partner and spouses, dependent children or legal guardians who are travelling with the above;
  - 7.2.6 airline and maritime crew;
  - 7.2.7 an Australian citizen or Australian permanent resident who, prior to 2 February 2020, had their primary place of residence in New Zealand;
  - 7.2.8 citizens of Pacific Island countries (to enable them to return to home countries);
- 7.3 all flights from mainland China to be met by public health staff;
- 7.4 all travellers arriving out of mainland China to be asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they leave mainland China, including New Zealand citizens and permanent residents returning to New Zealand;
- 8 agreed that these measures be put in place for an initial 14 day period and reviewed every 48 hours.

Martin Bell  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**  
Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health