



BRIEFING

Decision to strengthen the Border in response to coronavirus

Date:	2 February 2020	Priority:	Urgent
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2197 19-20

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Prime Minister , Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade , Rt Hon Winston Peters Minister of Tourism , Hon Kelvin Davis Minister of Finance , Hon Grant Robertson Minister for Trade and Export Growth , Hon David Parker Minister of Health , Hon David Clark Minister of Education , Hon Chris Hipkins	Agree to the recommendations	2 February 2020
Minister for Economic Development / of Transport Minister of Immigration Minister of Customs	For Information	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Iain Cossar	General Manager, Tourism, MBIE	027 706 6966	
Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive, MBIE	021 681 715	✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Noted

☐ Seen

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Declined

☐ Needs change

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ Withdrawn



BRIEFING

Decision to strengthen the Border in response to coronavirus

Date:	2 February 2020	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2197 19-20

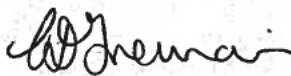
Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek confirmation from Ministers to a range of measures to strengthen the New Zealand border in response to the coronavirus.

Recommendations

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

1. **Agree** that the following border measures be implemented to strengthen the New Zealand border in response to the coronavirus:
 - a) The travel history in the case definition for novel coronavirus infection will be extended to include travel to mainland China (previously this was Hubei province in China, particularly Wuhan)
 - b) Entry to New Zealand be denied to people who have left or transited through mainland China from 2 February 2020, with the exception of:
 - i. New Zealand citizens (including those from the three Countries of the Realm) and permanent residents, and their immediate family (in the latter case subject to the ability to verify them – note further advice in body of paper)
 - ii. air crew (we will endeavour to ensure that they have been using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – officials will provide further advice on this issue)
 - c) All flights from mainland China will be met by public health staff
 - d) All travellers arriving out of mainland China be asked to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they leave mainland China
 - e) Passengers will be provided with information about what self-isolation entails
 - f) Passengers with an elevated temperature will be managed according to the ill traveller protocol.



Carolyn Tremain
Chief Executive, MBIE

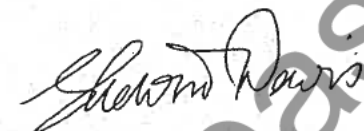
2 / 02 / 2020

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

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Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Hon Kelvin Davis
Minister of Tourism

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Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

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Hon David Parker
Minister for Trade and Export Growth

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Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

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Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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Background

1. On Saturday 1 February at 20:00 hrs, Cabinet met via teleconference to discuss the evolving epidemiology of the Novel Coronavirus and the New Zealand border response.
 2. Due to the urgency of the issue, the following Ministers were give Power to Act:
 - Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern,
 - Rt Hon Winston Peters
 - Hon Grant Robertson
 - Hon David Parker
 - Hon Dr David Clark
 - Hon Chris Hipkins
 - Hon Kelvin Davis.
- [DPMC Meeting minute dated 2 Feb 2020 refers]
3. On 2 February 2020, Ministers with Power to Act received:
 - a. updated public health advice, titled "Health advice on appropriate border measures for novel coronavirus" and
 - b. economic impact advice on border closures, titled "Economic Impact of a two-week or three-month border closure to Chinese Nationals".

Recommended actions

4. Officials have identified a set of actions which could be taken to strengthen the border and minimise the impact of the coronavirus. Ministers are therefore asked to confirm that the following border measures be implemented to strengthen the NZ border response:
 - a) **change** the official travel advice for China to Level 4, "do not travel to any part of mainland China"
 - b) **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)
 - c) **entry to New Zealand be denied** to people who have left or transited through mainland China from 2 February 2020, with the exception of:
 - a. New Zealand citizens (including those from the three Countries of the Realm), permanent residents and their immediate family (see below)
 - b. air crews (we will endeavour to ensure they have been using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) – further advice will be provided - see note below).
 - d) all flights from mainland China **will be met** by public health staff.
 - e) all travellers arriving out of mainland China **be asked or required** to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from the time they leave mainland China.
 - f) passengers will be **provided with information** about what self-isolation entails.

- g) passengers with an elevated temperature will be managed according to the ill traveller protocol.

Further discussion

- 5. Immediate family who are not New Zealand citizens or holders of resident class visas will most easily be identifiable if they are accompanying their New Zealand family member. Where immediate family members are not travelling with New Zealanders, while Immigration New Zealand will seek to facilitate their travel, there may be practical difficulties in ascertaining their status for the purpose of enabling boarding in particular.
- 6. Immigration New Zealand is mindful of the need to ensure that crew appropriately use PPE. As they enter through a facilitated (open) channel and do not generally interact with either border officers or automated systems, it may not be possible to easily verify whether they have appropriately used PPE during or prior to their flight. However, a visa and entry permission could be revoked if it is ascertained after entry that an individual has not complied with PPE requirements. Officials will provide further advice on this issue.
- 7. A range of assistance and information will be provided to passengers who have entered New Zealand. In addition to the request to self-isolate, they will be provided with information about how to take and monitor their temperature, and what to do if they feel unwell following their arrival in New Zealand.

Proactively Released