

From the Acting Vice-Chancellor Hayden
Ramsay

Wednesday 29 January 2020

Dear colleagues,

We are looking forward to the start of the academic year.

As you prepare for the new year you may have some concerns about measures the university is taking to address potential cases of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The disease was first detected in Wuhan in China, and there have been a small number of reported cases in Australia.

I would like to reassure you that Australian Catholic University is in regular consultation with the Australian Government and the health authorities in each state and territory.

The Department of Health advises that at this stage the risk of contracting the disease in Australia is low but there are precautions that should be observed.

ACU recommends that staff and students who have arrived in Australia from Wuhan City (Hubei Province, China) – or who have had contact with a person with a confirmed or suspected case of coronavirus – stay at home, and not come to university for 14 days after arrival.

If you are not sure about whether to come to campus, please refer to the attached fact sheet from the Department of Health.

ACU health centres will provide the same guidelines as well as advice on following best hygiene practices. We recommend that any member of staff who is experiencing flu-like symptoms immediately contact a doctor.

Please ensure you assist by observing good hygiene practices.

If you are feeling unwell, do not come to work, and contact a health professional for advice. If you suspect you may have the novel coronavirus, call the dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398. Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

Students who have recently returned from mainland China are **not** to be sent on clinical placement. Alternative arrangements will be made for a later placement. All other clinical placements will continue as scheduled unless otherwise advised by the Office of the Executive Dean.

All staff travel to China has been postponed in line with government recommendations. Planned staff international travel to destinations other than China will continue as scheduled. Please check the [Smart Traveller website](#) for the latest updates.

ACU will continue to follow advice from the Australian Government and the health authorities in each state and the ACT and we will inform you of any updates.

Please follow updates on the [ACU website](#) for further advice and information.

Contacts and further information

[Australian Government Department of Health](#)
[Victorian Department of Health and Human Services](#)
[NSW Health](#)
[ACT Health](#)
[Queensland Health](#)
[Smartraveller](#)
[World Health Organisation](#)



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