

## ACU Announcements

**Tuesday 4 March 2020**

Dear staff

The university is committed to ensuring a safe place of work and learning and the wellbeing of our staff and students. We have established an incident management group which meets twice weekly and is closely monitoring the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. In addition to following advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and Australia's Chief Medical Officer, we're working closely with Universities Australia, and preparing a pandemic plan in the event of a major coronavirus outbreak in Australia.

To minimise your risk of exposure to coronavirus and other infections, please remember to wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser. If you are unwell, please stay away from the university and speak with your supervisor or lecturer in charge. It is important to consider others who may be more vulnerable to infection.

### **Travel**

As you will be aware from media reports, on 1 March DFAT revised its travel restrictions to:

- extend the current travel restrictions for travellers arriving from or transiting through any part of mainland China for a further week to 7 March 2020
- raise the level of travel/transit advisory for Iran from level 3 to level 4 – do not travel
- raise the level of travel/transit advisory for Italy from level 1 to 2 – exercise a high degree of caution. This is excluding the 11 towns in northern Italy which have been quarantined.

Please be advised that any overseas travel on university business will be approved in line with DFAT travel advisories and the following conditions:

1. The DFAT travel advice to the destination or transit country is not elevated beyond level 2 (exercise a high degree of caution).

2. The travel activity is time dependent such as a conference or seminar etc.
3. Medical facilities at the destination are satisfactory in the event of illness.
4. Accommodation facilities at the destination are satisfactory in the event of a 14-day self-isolation period.

The university will review this position regularly and provide updates when necessary.

### **Returning from travel**

The Australian Government's [Smart Traveller website](#) has advice on countries at a heightened risk of transmission, ranging from Level 2 – Exercise a high degree of caution, to Level 4 – Do not travel.

If you are returning from or transiting through countries classified at a Level 4, including mainland China or Iran, you should self-isolate for 14 days. If you are returning from or transiting through countries classified at a Level 2, including Italy and South Korea, you need to monitor your health for the next 14 days.

If you are returning from or transiting through Level 2 countries, and you work as a healthcare worker or as a residential aged care worker, you should not attend your regular work for 14 days.

If you develop symptoms (fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath), you should arrange to see a doctor for an urgent assessment.

### **More information**

The university's flu vaccine program will commence once again in May and we encourage you to participate as a precaution against other flu strains.

Further updated information regarding coronavirus is available from the [Department of Health](#), [Department of Education](#), and the [ACU website](#).

For additional coronavirus information and travel updates, visit [International SOS](#).

### **On behalf of ACU's Incident Response Group.**

Australian Catholic University & the courses offered by the University are registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Provider registration codes: ABN 15 050 192 660 CRICOS Reg. 00004G.

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[Australia Catholic University Critical Incident Management Policy.](#)

