

Health Headline Measures

Fact sheet as at March 27, 2020

1. Social Distancing Measures

27 March 2020 - Today, National Cabinet decided to take further actions targeting overseas Australians returning home.

In addition to the existing arrival declaration card, by no later than midnight tomorrow (11:59pm Saturday 28th March) states and territories will be quarantining all arrivals through airports, in hotels and other accommodation facilities for the two weeks of their mandatory self-isolation before they are able to return to their home.

24 March 2020 - National Cabinet noted that there has been a significant growth in the number of cases in Australia, with a significant number of Australians returning from overseas and small community outbreaks associated with returned travellers.

Further social distancing measures were announced along a list of additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020.

We will be living with this virus *for at least six months*, so social distancing measures to slow this virus down must be sustainable for at least that long to protect Australian lives, allow Australia to keep functioning and keep Australians in jobs.

National Cabinet will meet again on Wednesday 25 March 2020.

Business Closures Stage 2 – Federal statement

Additional prohibited activities and venues to apply from 11.59pm (local time) 25 March 2020

Business, premise or place no longer able to operate	Exceptions
<i>Food and drink</i>	
Cafes	Takeaway service and home delivery Cafés or canteens at hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; services providing food or drink to the homeless, workplace canteens can provide takeaway
Food courts	Delivery and takeaway can remain operational
<i>Retail</i>	
Auction houses	
Real estate auctions and open house inspections	Private appointments for inspection

Outdoor and indoor markets will be a decision for each state and territory	Food markets will continue to operate in all states and territories
Beauty and personal care services	
Hairdressers and barber shops	1 person per 4 square metre rule applies in the premises
Beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons, tattoo parlours	
Spas and massage parlours	
Entertainment venues	
Cinemas, nightclubs	
Casinos, gaming or gambling venues	
Strip clubs, brothels and sex on premises venues	
Concert venues, theatre, arenas, auditoriums, stadiums	Live streaming of a performance by a small group could be permissible with social distancing observed
Amusement parks and arcades	
Play centres (indoor and outdoor)	
Leisure and recreation	
Community and recreation centres	Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.
Health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre and spin facilities, saunas, bathhouses and wellness centres	
Boot camps, personal training operating outside and inside	For outside events, limited to groups of no more than 10 people and social distancing must be exercised.
Social sporting-based activities	
Swimming pools	
Residential facilities	
Hotels, hostels, bed and breakfasts, campsites, caravan parks, and boarding houses will be a decision for each state and territory	Excluding permanent residents and workers.
Outdoor recreation	
Caravan and camping parks will be a decision for each state and territory	Where people live permanently in caravan parks or are staying in caravan parks as interim abodes where their primary residence is not available, they may continue to do so.
Non-residential institutions	
Galleries, museums, national	

institutions and historic sites	
Libraries, community centres, and youth centres	
Local government non-essential facilities and services (such as libraries and pools)	
Community facilities (such as community halls, clubs, RSLs, PCYCs);	
Places of worship, weddings and funerals	<p>Weddings with a maximum attendance of no more than 5 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.</p> <p>Funerals attended by a maximum of no more than 10 people and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies.</p>

Business Closures Stage 1 – Federal statement

22 March 2020 - National Cabinet agreed to move to more widespread restrictions on social gatherings.

Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed to implement, through state and territory laws (Public Health Directions), new Stage 1 restrictions on social gatherings, **to be reviewed on a monthly basis**. Australians should expect these measures to be in place for at least 6 months.

The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020:

- Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
- Gyms and indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
- Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies).

Other facilities are not restricted at this time and should follow the social distancing and health advice. The Government is considering what further restrictions that may be necessary, and what is an essential service, and will provide further advice at that time.

These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.

New South Wales	In line with federal statement
Victoria	<p>In line with federal statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full list of Stage 1 and 2 restrictions will be available at coronavirus.vic.gov.au • Businesses seeking advice about whether they are affected can contact the Business Victoria Hotline on 13 22 15
Queensland	In line with federal statement and includes Theme Parks
South Australia	In line with federal statement

Western Australia	In line with federal statement
Tasmania	In line with federal statement
ACT	In line with federal statement
Northern Territory	In line with federal statement

Isolated remote community hubs are not included in these restrictions.

Other facilities (that do not fall in the list above) are not impacted, but will be considered under stage 2 restrictions, if necessary.

Restrictions to Indoor Gatherings - Federal statement

The non-essential business closure measures build on existing measures announced on **18 March 2020**:

- No non-essential indoor gatherings of more than 100 people.
- All essential indoor gatherings of less than 100 people must have **no more than one person per 4sqm**.
- Hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles need to be available, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

Definition of “indoor gathering”:

Refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed).

Restrictions to Outdoor Gatherings - Federal statement

No non-essential outside gatherings of more than 500 people.

Essential outdoor events of less than 500 attendees can proceed. All events should follow these precautions:

- Consider the size of the space, the number of people in it, and how much room people have to move around safely — as a general rule, people should be able to keep 1.5 metres apart.
- Make hand hygiene products and suitable rubbish bins readily available.
- Conduct frequent cleaning and waste disposal.

2. Travel Restrictions

Federal statements

24 March 2020 the National Cabinet noted:

- The Commonwealth Government will implement a ‘**do not travel**’ ban on Australians travelling overseas under the Biosecurity Act 2015.
- Exemptions, which will be managed by the Australian Border Force, will apply to a range of categories of travellers, including for those citizens ordinarily resident overseas, where travel is essential or necessary, where travel is in our national interest, and on compassionate and humanitarian grounds.

- This prohibition is aligned with the Government’s decision to raise the Smartraveller Travel Advice to Level 4 - Do Not Travel overseas.

22 March 2020 the Prime Minister called for Australians to:

- Immediately **reconsider all non-essential domestic travel**, and says people should "exercise their common sense" when it comes to deciding what essential travel is.

19th March 2020 the Prime Minister the Hon Scott Morrison announced:

- From 9pm on 20 March **Australia’s borders will be closed for all except for Australian citizens, residents and their immediate family members**
- Australian government is working with Qantas to maintain flights needed to get Australian citizens and residents home from overseas
- Domestic air travel: Transmission of COVID-19 on planes is considered minimal, however, to minimise the spread of infection, all non-essential travel should be reconsidered.

States & Territories Domestic Travel Restrictions and Exemptions

All jurisdictions consider freight and logistics as essential services, so freight is still able to move across state borders. However, there are procedures in place that must be followed.

Most jurisdictions are still in the early stages of implementing their border closures and **some details of processes/ requirements may alter as implementation is refined**.

The best and current information is as follows:

New South Wales	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
Victoria	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since midnight Wednesday the 25th of March borders have shut. Any inter-state arrival must self-isolate for 14 days, unless deemed “exempt”. However, if the exempt person has travelled to certain locations deemed as hotspots by the Chief Medical Officer they must self-isolate for 14 days. The requirement to self-isolate extends to Queensland residents if they are returning from hotspot. • Queensland's state disaster coordinator says arrangements will be made for people living in border communities. • Those travelling for essential services (transport of goods or freight) should apply online for a Queensland Entry Pass. This pass will be issued electronically and printed to be displayed in-vehicle to enable priority passage. • Exemptions include: Freight, Emergency vehicles, Emergency workers, those travelling to and from work, Court orders including family court, compassionate grounds, medical treatment.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people entering South Australia to isolate for 14-days from their arrival. • This will apply immediately to South Australians, other Australians and other travellers, and will be supported by border control from Tuesday 24 March at 4pm. • Those travelling to South Australia for essential travellers (transport and freight services) may be asked to justify ‘essential’ status by police at a bordering checking point.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exemptions for essential travel to maintain health, the food supply chain, and the State's economic needs.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, anyone arriving in Western Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. • Those travelling to Western Australia for essential business must complete a WA Border Arrivals Form. • Exemptions will apply to essential services and workers, including: health and emergency services, defence and policing, mining industry workforces, flight crews and freight of essential goods, via ports and trucks - with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From midnight, Friday 20th March, all non-essential travellers departing for Tasmania will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • Travel restrictions do not apply to Tasmanian residents on our islands, such as King and Flinders, flying into mainland Tasmania. However they will apply to anyone travelling inbound to the island from mainland Australia including residents returning home to the island. Mainland Australians flying into our islands then onto mainland Tasmania will need to self-quarantine when they arrive. • Freight will continue to come in and out of the state, and with TT-Line having capacity to carry extra freight. • Those requiring interstate medical treatment will also be able to utilise the Royal Flying Doctor's Service. • Those travelling to Tasmania for essential business (freight and logistics) must complete a Tasmanian Arrivals Form. • Exemptions: The quarantine period will not apply to essential travellers – such as health care workers, emergency workers, defence personnel, air and ship crew, specialists, and essential freight personnel (truck drivers/spirit freight), and there will be stringent guidelines to manage this.
ACT	<i>In line with Federal restrictions</i>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 4.00pm on Tuesday 24th March, people who arrive in the Northern Territory from interstate will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • Those travelling to the Northern Territory for essential business (transport, freight and logistics) must complete a border arrivals form. • Exemptions: health and emergency services, defence and policing, flight crews and freight – with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this. Delivery of food and freight (essential goods and services) will continue. There will be exemptions granted on compassionate grounds, arrivals will have to show they meet the essential arrival criteria to be granted an exemption.

3. Self-Isolation Requirements

Federal Restrictions

All people who arrive in Australia from midnight 15 March 2020, or think they may have been in

close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, are required to self-isolate for 14 days.
https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance_7.pdf

Expansion of coronavirus testing criteria

25 March 2020 - National Cabinet agreed to an Australian Health Principal Protection Committee (AHPCC) recommendation to expand the current coronavirus testing criteria to include testing people with fever or acute respiratory infection in:

- all health workers
- all aged/residential care workers
- geographically localised areas where there is elevated risk of community transmission as defined by the local public health unit
- where no community transmission is occurring, high risk settings where there are two or more
- plausibly-linked cases, for example:
 - aged and residential care
 - rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
 - detention centres/correctional facilities
 - boarding schools
 - military bases (including Navy ships) that have live-in accommodation.

National Cabinet also agreed that testing will be expanded to include hospitalised patients with fever and acute respiratory symptoms of unknown cause, at the discretion of the treating clinician. This is the minimum testing criteria.

National Cabinet agreed to implement nationally consistent public health directions, at state and territory level, on self-quarantine for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19.

On 26th March, over 36 million messages were sent out with the following advice by Telstra, Optus and Vodafone.

- Be at least 1.5 metres away from everyone and don't gather
- If you're sick, stay at home
- Wash your hands and do it often
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow and not hands
- Don't touch your face at all, even if it itches
- And if you've returned from overseas or in isolation you must adhere to the rules

What do I do if I get sick?

If you develop symptoms (fever, a cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath) within 14 days of returning to Australia, or within 14 days of last contact of a confirmed case, you should arrange to see your doctor for urgent assessment. You should telephone the health clinic or hospital before you arrive and tell them your travel history or that you have been in contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. You must remain isolated either in your home, hotel or a healthcare setting until public health authorities inform you it is safe for you to return to your usual activities.

States & Territory Restrictions

States enforce these with state specific penalties – refer to Public Health Act in relevant state.

New South Wales	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
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Victoria	<i>In line with federal restrictions</i>
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All travelers required to self-isolate for 14 days from midnight Wednesday 25th March. • Some exemptions apply.
South Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people entering South Australia to isolate for 14-days from their arrival from 4pm on Tuesday 24 March. • Exemptions for essential travel to maintain health, the food supply chain, and the State's economic needs.
Western Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, unless exempted, arrivals from interstate will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days. • Individuals are asked to cancel any holiday to WA – or individuals will need to self-isolate. • WA Government working to acquire hotels for self-isolation so people can be quarantined. Actively investigating using Rottnest island as a quarantine zone.
Tasmania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From midnight, Friday 20 March, all passengers will be screened on arrival and must demonstrate they meet the essential traveller criteria. • If they are deemed non-essential, they will be directed to quarantine themselves for 14 days at their stated place of address. Tasmania Police and Biosecurity Tasmania will ensure compliance with the quarantine measures, helping people to access support and follow up to ensure the process is adhered to.
ACT	<i>In line with Federal restrictions</i>
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 4.00pm on Tuesday, people who arrive in the Northern Territory from interstate will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • There will be exemptions to the quarantine period requirement. Arrivals will have to show they meet the essential arrival criteria to be granted an exemption.

4. Declared Emergencies and Orders

Federal - Human Biosecurity Emergency Declared

Commonwealth emergency powers

The National Cabinet noted that Commonwealth, States and Territories were implementing emergency powers under respective legislation in order to be able to deal with the spread of COVID-19 as quickly and flexibly as possible.

The Governor-General has accepted the Commonwealth Government's recommendation that he declare a "human biosecurity emergency" under the Biosecurity Act 2015 given the risks COVID-19 poses to human health and the need to control its spread in Australia.

That declaration allows the Health Minister to issue targeted, legally enforceable directions and requirements to combat the virus. The declaration was recommended by the Chief Medical Officer in his capacity as the Director of Human Biosecurity.

The first emergency direction made under the declaration is to formally prohibit international cruise ships from entering Australian ports for an initial 30 days, which provides additional legal support for the decision announced on Sunday 15 March 2020.

States & Territories – Emergency Declarations and Orders

New South Wales	No State of Emergency declaration as at March 23, 2020 <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>
Victoria	State of Emergency declared - March 16, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available.</i> The state of emergency gives health officials the power to detain people, search premises without a warrant and force people or areas into lockdown. <i>Vic government gazette s156 - public health and wellbeing act 2008</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited Gatherings Directions • Non-Essential Activity Directions <i>Vic government gazette s161 - public health and wellbeing act 2008</i> Directions from Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease) in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared State of Emergency Non-Essential Activity Directions (No. 2)
Queensland	No State of Emergency declaration as at March 23, 2020 Emergency laws passed on 18 March 2020 will grant extra powers to the Chief Health Officer. <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>
South Australia	State of Emergency declared – March 22, 2020 - <i>Emergency Management Act powers available</i> <i>Public Health Emergency declared - Mar 15, 2020</i>
Western Australia	State of Emergency declared – March 16, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available</i>
Tasmania	State of Emergency declared – March 19, 2020 <i>Emergency Management Act powers available.</i> Public Health Emergency declared – March 17, 2020
ACT	Public Health Emergency declared – March 16, 2020 <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Public Health Emergency declared – March 19, 2020</i> <i>Public Health Act powers available.</i>

5. Statements on Schools

Federal Statement

The health advice on schools has not changed and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) does not recommend that schools be shut at this time.

Some states may end their first term early.

If parents choose to keep their children home from schools that are open, they must be responsible for their children's conduct and make sure they adhere to social distancing.

State and territory governments will give effect to these restrictions through their own legislation and make announcements accordingly.

Schools will be encouraged to provide access to online and distance learning.

State & Territory Statements

New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 24 March 2020, in NSW, for practical reasons, parents are encouraged to keep their children at home from schools.
Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Premier has informed National Cabinet that school holidays will be brought forward in Victoria, starting on Tuesday 24 March. All measures to be implemented by Victoria are consistent with the health advice provided by the Victorian Chief Health Officer. The decision whether to re-open schools after the Term 1 holidays will likewise be determined following advice from the Chief Health Officer.
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland schools will go student free from the week starting 30th of March, however, schools will remain open until the 3rd of April 2020 to accommodate for children of essential workers. Parents are encouraged to keep children at home if possible.
South Australia	<p><i>In line with Federal Advice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Australian Schools will remain open in line with AHPPC advice. The SA Premier stated “Our strong advice is that students should still go to school, but we recognise that some parents would prefer to keep their children out of school, and we will develop the options for that as quickly as possible.” Monday the 6th of April to the 9th of April will be pupil-free days in all SA government schools and preschools. This move will assist the state’s educators to plan and prepare to transition to flexible learning for Term 2. It is anticipated that Catholic schools will implement similar arrangements.
Western Australia	<p><i>In line with Federal Advice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Australian Premier Mark McGowan confirmed government schools would stay open, however, if possible, parents are encouraged to keep them at home if they have access to online and other learning resources. Monday the 6th of April to the 9th of April will be professional development days for government teachers and education assistants to prepare for Term 2. During this time any students who show up to school will be supervised. Catholic schools will introduce their own suitable arrangements.
Tasmania	<p><i>In line with Federal Advice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein and Public Health Director Mark Veitch said authorities were acting on advice from the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee and that closing schools was not recommended. In Tasmania, many parents have already made the decision to keep their children home from school, and the Government has said absence rules do not currently apply.
ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT public schools will still be able to safely receive and provide learning for the children of parents and carers engaged in

	<p>essential services (such as our healthcare sector) who are unable to care for their children at home, as well as vulnerable children and those with additional needs. No child will be turned away from school. Our position is again broadly consistent with decisions made in NSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From this week, the ACT is moving towards a program of alternative teaching models from term 2. Government schools are well placed for this shift, after the Government invested significantly in devices for students and digital capability over recent years. Pupil free days will start in the ACT from Tuesday 24 March.
Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For schools, from 24 March and for the rest of this term, the decision to send kids to school will be a choice for parents. • The Education Department will use this time until then to make sure there can be flexible arrangements for students to receive their education – whether that’s at school or at home. • Monday the 6th of April to the 9th of April will be professional development days for staff to prepare for the delivery of Term 2. During this time students are not required to attend, however, no student will be turned away if alternative arrangements cannot be made.

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