



## Novel Coronavirus Information Sheet

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in late December 2019. It is called a 'novel' virus because it is new, and has not been detected before this outbreak.

### What is Australia doing?

Australia has extra border measures, health screening and isolation recommendations for people and ships travelling to Australia from mainland China.

The Department of Agriculture is in contact with international vessels to ensure compliance with pre-arrival reporting requirements of ill travellers.

The Department of Health is also providing additional communication material for travellers at international ports. This material informs travellers of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV and encourages them to report to biosecurity officers if they are experiencing symptoms while in the port environment.

On the 1 February 2020, Australia introduced isolation and additional border recommendations for persons arriving in Australia who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020.

For marine vessels, these new requirements only apply to ships that left China on or after 1 February 2020. When pilots are meeting ships that arrive after 1 February but left China **before** 1 February, pilots do **not** need to take the additional precautions outlined in this information sheet.

### How can I reduce my risk?

While the infection does not currently appear to spread easily between people, the following measures will help reduce the risk of spread:

- Contact with persons on board the vessel should be limited to the vessel's Master.
- Wear appropriate PPE (surgical masks and gloves) while on board a vessel that has left or transited through mainland China **on or after 1 February 2020**, as a precautionary measure.
- Pilots should practise frequent handwashing while on board the vessel or use alcohol based hand sanitiser.
- Pilots should stay one metre or more away from crew unless wearing appropriate PPE.
- If a Pilot becomes aware of any unwell person on board, they should contact their local port authority and public health authority and disembark accordingly.

### Am I subject to enhanced health screening and isolation recommendations if I pilot a vessel?

Marine pilots, following these guidelines, are exempt from Australia's health screening and isolation recommendations on arrival into Australian ports.

If you have been in contact with ill persons while on board the vessel, make yourself known to the biosecurity officer on arrival.



## What should I do if I develop symptoms after disembarking the vessel?

With appropriate precautions, it is extremely unlikely that any illness or symptoms you develop could be related to this virus. If, however, you are seeking medical attention for an illness, it is advisable to inform the doctor or clinic when making an appointment that you have had some contact with people who may have had exposure to this virus.

You should also:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Use good cough etiquette – cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands afterwards.
- Inform your supervisor of your symptoms.

## Will I be contacted if I have been exposed to someone with 2019-nCoV?

When someone is diagnosed with 2019-nCoV in Australia, health authorities conduct contact tracing. Contact tracing is when public health staff contact people who had close contact<sup>1</sup> with the unwell person during their contagious period. You will be notified by staff if you have been in close contact with someone who has 2019-nCoV and you will be given information and advice relevant to your exposure. It is most unlikely that a marine pilot following the advice given in this document would have had close contact with an unwell person.

## Other information

While 2019-nCoV is of concern and we remain vigilant, it is currently influenza season in the northern hemisphere. It is more likely that travellers displaying infectious symptoms have a common respiratory infection, rather than 2019-nCoV.

## Where can I get more information about 2019-nCoV?

Visit the Australian Government Department of Health's website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

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<sup>1</sup> Close contact is when a person has spent more than 15 minutes face-to-face or more than two hours in a closed room with an infected person (without personal protective equipment).