

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA BY AIRCRAFT RELATING TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE #2 - 02 FEBRUARY 2020

Update to advice

New Zealand citizens

- To align with New Zealand border arrangements, exemption have been put in place for all 444 visa holders who permanently reside in Australia.
- This exemption is only available to 444 visa holders who currently reside in Australia. They will be treated like other permanent residents and are eligible to enter Australia from China and undergo the required screening before entering the community.

The ABF appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time. For additional support, please contact the Border Operation Centre at +61 1300 368 126.

Update to advice #1

Transit Passengers

- Airlines should not board any foreign travellers who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 on a flight that transits through Australia, These travellers are subject to the same restrictions as those travellers ending their journey in Australia.
- Airlines must contact the Border Operations Centre before boarding passengers who will be transiting Australia to a third country.

Aircrew

- Aircrew are exempt from the travel restrictions in place for passengers who have left or transited through mainland China.
- Aircrew may be subject to health screening if unwell or exhibiting flu like symptoms.
- If aircrew become unwell while in Australia, they should self-isolate for 14 days and report to a medical practitioner and their employer.

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Original Advice – 1 February 2020

On 1 February 2020, the Prime Minister of Australia announced that any foreign travellers who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 will be refused entry to Australia, in order to minimise the potential spread of Novel Coronavirus.

Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family, legal guardians and spouses will be exempt from these measures, but will be required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days from their arrival into Australia. Limited exemptions also exist for airline crew, where they have taken appropriate precautionary measures.

The Australian Border Force (ABF), working with partner agencies, will establish advanced screening and reception arrangements to facilitate identification of those individuals to whom these measures apply.

All passengers who departed to Australia on 1 February 2020 prior to the Prime Minister's announcement will be subject to enhanced screening but, pending clearance, will be granted entry to Australia.

The ABF acknowledges the impact this will have on operations and travel plans. The following arrangements are now in place:

For direct flights and cruise ships from China

- If a traveller is not an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse), airlines are required to contact the Border Operation Centre at +61 1300 368 126.
- In most circumstances, if the traveller does not meet the above travel conditions they will be denied uplift (the mechanism for which will be visa cancellation).
 - Arrangements will be made to reinstate visas as appropriate following the lifting of these measures.

For flights and cruise ships from other locations

- Airline staff should ask the traveller if they have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020.
- Staff should also examine the passport to determine if there has been any travel stamp for mainland China on or since 1 February 2020.
- If the travellers advise they have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020 and are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse), the airline is required to contact Border Operations Centre at +61 1300 368 126.
- In most circumstances, if the traveller does not meet the above travel conditions they will be denied uplift (the mechanism for which will be visa cancellation).
 - Arrangements will be made to reinstate visas as appropriate following the lifting of these measures.

Additional messages for travellers

- If you arrive in Australia and it is determined that you have travelled to or transited through mainland China on or since 1 February 2020, your visa will be cancelled and you will either be returned to your home country when flights are available or placed in an alternative place of detention for a quarantine period.
- Please do not travel to Australia unless you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident (or their immediate family, legal guardian or spouse).

The Australian Government will review these arrangements in 14 days.

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