



## **Australian Government**

### **Department of Health**

**Chief Medical Officer**

Dear tourism industry operators

Following previous correspondence, I am writing to provide further advice regarding the coronavirus disease outbreak (COVID-19).

With more cases emerging in the Republic of Korea and Italy, the Australian Government has extended travel restrictions to people coming from the Republic of Korea, and put in place new checks for people arriving from Italy.

The Government is putting in place a travel ban in relation to the Republic of Korea. The considerable scale of travel from the Republic of Korea, and the number of COVID-19 cases emerging in that country, presents a high risk of transmission here in Australia.

Specifically, as of 5 March 2020:

- Foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) who are in the Republic of Korea on or after 5 March, will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days from the time they have left or transited through the Republic of Korea.
- Australian citizens and permanent residents will still be able to enter Australia, as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependents only). They will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the day they left the Republic of Korea.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will raise the level of the travel advisory for the Republic of Korea to 'reconsider your need to travel' (level 3 of 4) up from 'exercise a high degree of caution' (level 2).
- The level of the travel advice will also be raised to 'do not travel' to Daegu (level 4 of 4) because of the significant outbreak of COVID-19 there. People in the Republic of Korea should monitor their health closely and follow the advice of local authorities.

The scale of travel from Italy is much smaller. We are therefore implementing enhanced health screening and temperature testing arrangements to deal with travellers coming from this country. Travel bans in relation to mainland China and Iran will continue, meaning that bans for China, Iran and South Korea will be the same.

These measures are about slowing the transmission of COVID-19 cases into Australia. Outside of Iran, the two other highest risk countries are the Republic of Korea and Italy.

I reiterate that any return traveller from any part of the world, where there's a COVID-19 outbreak, who develops symptoms, should isolate and seek medical attention. We will continue to watch developments.

These changes have not been made lightly and we are very focused on ensuring our advice is proportionate. Our highest priority remains the wellbeing and safety of Australians.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Professor Brendan Murphy  
Chief Medical Officer

5 March 2020