

Australia's Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak

Overview

Since receiving the first notification in early January 2020 about the outbreak, Australia's government agencies have worked closely together to formulate and implement an appropriate response to this unprecedented situation. This includes close coordination by Commonwealth, State and Territory health authorities in providing a national response to COVID-19 including health advice related to international aviation operations.

The Australian Government has implemented a number of measures to ensure the protection of the health of the travelling public, aviation industry employees and the community from COVID-19 including international travel restrictions and quarantine requirements. These measures are updated, as appropriate, as Australia continues to manage COVID-19.

Cognisant of the serious impact of these measures on the aviation industry, the Australian Government has announced a series of financial packages to support the Australian aviation industry covering regional, domestic and international aviation and our aviation safety agencies, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Airservices Australia.

Further details of the health measures are provided below.

Health and Border Protection Measures

❑ Restrictions on Travel

- **Domestic Travel**
Non-essential domestic travel within Australia is to be avoided, and travel to certain remote communities with high numbers of vulnerable people is restricted. Some travelers crossing State borders are required to undergo a mandatory period of quarantine or self-isolation. Lists of flights on which an infected person has travelled are published to allow other passengers to monitor their health.
- **International Travel**
Only Australian citizens, residents and close relatives are allowed to travel to Australia, and are strongly encouraged to return. Returning travelers are required to undergo quarantine for 14 days at their port of arrival in government provided accommodation. Travelers will be assessed for their fitness to travel before boarding flights. Outbound international travel by Australians is not permitted with limited exemptions.
- Further information about Australia's immigration and border arrangements during the COVID-19 outbreak is available on the Department of Home Affairs website (<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>).
- The Australian Government's latest health advice and reporting on COVID-19 is available on the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/>).
- Australia has released a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for Australia's Melbourne and Brisbane Flight Information regions, outlining relevant restrictions, and which is updated as needed.

☐ Requirements for Travellers

- **Passenger Movement Within Terminals**
Passengers screened for temperature on disembarking (some airports). Social distancing encouraged and facilitated. Extra availability of hand sanitation products. More frequent and thorough cleaning of facilities. Non-travelers discouraged from entering airport terminals.
- **Symptomatic Passengers**
Airlines must report symptomatic passengers to biosecurity officers. Passengers will be assessed before disembarking for referral to quarantine or hospital. Lists of flights on which an infected person has travelled are published.
- **Pilots and Flight Crew**
Pilots and flight crew of international or interstate flights must self-isolate in their accommodation after arrival and observe social distancing.

☐ Sharing of Information

- Smart traveler website gives up to date information of latest government measures (<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>).
- Lists of flights on which an infected person has travelled are published to allow other passengers to monitor their health.
- NOTAMs issued giving details of restrictions and sources of information.