



Friday, 31 January 2020

## **FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS**

Dear colleagues

As you are aware, Australian and international authorities are currently dealing with an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, in China.

I wanted to provide you with an update on the University's response to the novel coronavirus and links to further information to ensure you have accurate and timely information.

The safety of our students, staff and community is always our number one priority. We are actively and closely monitoring events as the situation continues to evolve rapidly around the world.

We have set up a university response team so that we are prepared should the situation escalate. Our staff are liaising with federal health officials and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and are ready to act on their directions as the situation evolves.

The University has prepared the attached FAQ to provide details on the following key points. The Department of Health has also released a Universities Factsheet for Administrators, also attached.

- What is the novel coronavirus and its symptoms?
- Travel advice for staff and students
- Advice if students need to delay commencement, exams or defer enrolment
- Advice on seeking medical assessment if you believe you are impacted.

### **Latest recommendations**

All staff and students must also follow the latest recommendations from the [Department of Health](#):

- People who have been in contact with any confirmed novel coronavirus cases must be isolated in their home for 14 days following exposure

- Returned travellers who have been in the Hubei Province of China must be isolated in their home for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province, other than for seeking individual medical care.

The Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services has set up a dedicated novel coronavirus hotline on **1800 675 398**.

### **Travel advice**

Federation University has ceased all student, staff and official University travel to the Hubei province of China at this time, in line with [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade travel recommendations](#).

In line with the [Australian Government travel recommendations](#), the University is urging students and staff to reconsider any travel to all of China.

### **Links to information from health authorities and DFAT**

You can find the [Federation University Coronavirus FAQ](#) via the News page on our website.

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

[DFAT Smartraveller advice – travel to and within China](#)

[Department of Health update](#)

[Q&A on coronaviruses, WHO](#)

On a final note, we value our long-standing collegiate relationship with China and will continue to support our Chinese students and colleagues through this challenging time.

Best regards

Professor Helen Bartlett

Vice-Chancellor and President

