



Border measures in place for COVID-19

20 March 2020

This factsheet provides the responsibilities of the Australian Border Force (ABF), Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Departments, and airlines in managing the enhanced border measures for COVID-19.

A travel ban will be placed on all foreign nationals who do not meet the travel exemptions and are not in Australia before 2100 AEDST 20 March 2020, and therefore will not be allowed to enter Australia. All exempt travellers will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from the time of arrival in Australia.

Overseas – at check in

- **Airline responsibilities**

- Advice to be provided to all foreign nationals they will not be permitted into Australia arriving after 2100AEDST 20 March 2020 unless exempt.
- Airport signage in some countries are also providing visibility of the restrictions for entry into Australia.
- Questions are asked regarding traveller health.
- Some airlines have ceased kiosk check-in so interaction with an airline staff member occurs.

- **ABF responsibilities**

- Airline Liaison Officers (ALOs) in major transit hubs engage regularly with airlines to facilitate Australian travellers and educate airlines on the enhanced border measures for Australia.
- Travellers exempt from the enhanced border measures are facilitated at check-in. All other travellers attempting to check-in will be stopped by the airline through an electronic message.
- If the ABF receive a call from the airline, further questions are asked to assess the traveller's origins. Further questions on the health of the travellers are also asked at this stage.

During flight

- **Airline responsibilities**

- Inflight messaging via audio and in leaflet form.
- DAWE has provided in-flight messaging to airlines to facilitate this requirement.
- Airlines provide both the Incoming Passenger Cards and the health factsheet to travellers prior to arrival.

On arrival at international airports in Australia

- **Airline responsibilities**

- Obligation to notify DAWE of any/all unwell travellers on-board the aircraft.

- **ABF responsibilities**

- Assessment of travellers identified that pose a higher risk are targeted upon arrival.
- ABF officer presence at arrival and baggage halls to facilitate the interaction and questioning of travellers through active monitoring.
- ABF officers to refer any travellers presenting as ill in the primary, baggage hall or screening areas to a Biosecurity officer for health assessment.
- ABF officers are to distribute and collect Isolation Declaration Cards to all passengers entering Australia. The ABF officers will collect the health card prior to the primary line.
- ABF officers will refer passengers who declare they will not self-isolate to a Biosecurity officer. If the traveller is exempt, the biosecurity officer will then take down the passenger's name, number and address and collect the health declaration and let the passenger go. If the traveller is not exempt, they will be considered for Refused Immigration Clearance. If this occurs, the ABF will retain the card as part of the required justification to effect cancellation.
- ABF officers will collect Isolation Declaration Cards and stockpile for handover to State or Territory Health Partners at multiple times throughout the day.

- ***DAWE responsibilities***

- If the airline advises of ill traveller/s, DAWE will undertake a health assessment of the traveller on-board. This assessment (which may include seeking guidance from a State or Territory Health human biosecurity officer), is designed to assess for COVID-19 as well as other listed human diseases. The ill traveller will not require additional health screening at the health screening area in terminal, but Biosecurity officers may escort to the biosecurity health room if further assessment is required. If there are no issues, the Biosecurity officer grants permission for the flight to disembark.
- Masks provided after disembarkation by DAWE Biosecurity officers or state or territory health officials in the health screening area.

- ***Commonwealth, state and territory health departments' responsibilities***

- Conduct health assessment of travellers which includes questioning and temperature checks.
- If ABF officers question travellers at the primary line and deem further assessment is necessary, a further health screening will be facilitated.
- Determine and facilitate treatment action.

Post-border

- ***State and territory health departments' responsibilities***

- Contact tracing when a traveller is identified being symptomatic. Health agencies inform travellers on a flight where there has been close contact to positive COVID-19 traveller for further treatment/isolation options.

- ***State and territory law enforcement responsibilities***

- Compliance activities in relation to self-isolation may be undertaken by relevant state or territory law enforcement agencies.