

# STAND-UP TALK

epar®

## UPDATE 28/02/20: Let's Talk About the Current Coronavirus Outbreak

### GLOBAL STATUS OF THE CORONAVIRUS

As of 28 February, there have been more than 82,000 global cases with infections in every continent except Antarctica.

It is now in 51 countries. At least 11 European countries now have confirmed cases of coronavirus. South Korea has more than 1,700 cases.

On February 26, Norway, Romania, Greece, Georgia, Pakistan, North Macedonia and Brazil all detected their first cases of the coronavirus.

On February 27, Estonia, Denmark, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands reported their first coronavirus cases.

### AUSTRALIAN STATUS OF THE CORONAVIRUS

As at 27 February 2020, there are 23 confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Australia:

- 8 in Queensland
- 4 in New South Wales
- 7 in Victoria
- 3 in South Australia
- 1 in Western Australia

15 of these cases are reported to have fully recovered. The remaining cases are in a stable condition.

### IS IT A PANDEMIC?

Leading Australian Virologist Professor Mackay said, "We need to be aware that we are probably heading for a pandemic even if the World Health Organisation doesn't want to call it that yet. It's just a matter of time."

### WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DOING?

The Australian government has declared coronavirus a "disease of pandemic potential."

Australia is well prepared and has excellent health systems to deal with this virus. All areas of the health sector are well informed and actively engaged in the national response.

The Government's emergency response plan outlines responses to three levels of outbreak severity - low, moderate and high.

### COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

#### Misconception 1: 2019-nCoV is more contagious and spreading faster than any other pathogen.

Not even close. The measles virus is one example of a virus that is much more contagious than the current coronavirus. The only reason why the measles virus may not seem like it has spread as quickly during recent outbreaks is because most people are already vaccinated against the measles.

WHO has estimated the R0 of Coronavirus at around 2.5. That means a person infected could on average spread the virus to between 2 to 3 other persons. Nevertheless, an estimated R0 of 2.5 would fall well below the R0's for measles and pertussis, which tend to be between 12 and 18.

#### Misconception 2: 2019-nCoV is more deadly than any other pathogen.

Every year influenza kills between 291,000 to 646,000 people around the world, according to a study published in The Lancet.

### NO NEED TO PANIC

Much about the virus remains unknown, and the danger could intensify as it travels through the rest of the world. But based on existing information, here's what experts say about the severity of the virus.

- More than 80% of cases are mild.
- Just under 14% of patients were severe, and just under 5% critical.
- The death rate outside of Wuhan, China, is 0.7% according to the WHO.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Maintain good hygiene.
- Make sure your workplaces are clean and hygienic.
- Promote regular and thorough handwashing by employees, contractors and customers.
- Promote good respiratory hygiene in the workplace.
- Before traveling make sure your organisation and its employees have the latest information.

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## Record of EHS Stand-Up Meeting

### Meeting details

Meeting held at:	Date:
Meeting conducted by:	Signed:

### Persons attending

Name	Signature	Name	Signature

### Action required

Action	Responsible	Timeframe

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## Stand Up Talk Meeting Outline

1	<b>FOLLOW UP</b>	Follow-up on any outstanding issues from the previous meeting.
2	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	Briefly introduce the topic (in 1-2 minutes) for employees.
3	<b>ADVISE</b>	Australia is well prepared for the Coronavirus and has actioned a national plan.
4	<b>ADVISE</b>	The importance of good hygiene is critical.
5	<b>ADVISE</b>	The National Coronavirus Health Information Line is live on 1800 020 080, providing public health and situation informational. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It will refer requests for medical advice to registered nurses on Healthdirect - 1800 022 222.
6	<b>NOTES</b>	Note any issues that require follow-up.
7	<b>THANKS</b>	Thank everyone for their time and attention.