Department of Education and Training

Higher Education and Skills

Participation, Inclusion and Regional Engagement Branch Memo

**TO:** Learn Local providers, PIRE Branch staff, ACFE Board, ACFE Regional Councils

**FROM:** Ryan Collins, Director — Participation, Inclusion and Regional Engagement Branch

**DATE:** 30/01/2020

**SUBJECT: Important advice on the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus**

Actions

* Note the following important advice on the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus

Coronavirus Outbreak

Cases of the novel coronavirus have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as in other Chinese cities and in other countries, including Australia.

Managing attendance of students and staff

The Commonwealth’s Chief Medical Officer and Victoria’s Chief Health Officer have recommended a precautionary approach to managing coronavirus for travellers returned from Hubei province.

The recommendation is that returning students self-isolate at home and should not attend their registered training provider for 14 days:

* following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case, or
* after leaving Hubei Province.

The same advice applies to any staff who have returned or are returning from Hubei province.

The Chief Health Officer’s current advice is that staff and students do not need to be isolated at home if they have recently travelled in other parts of China or other countries and are not showing any symptoms of the virus.

If you think a student or staff member is showing relevant symptoms, please advise the student or staff member to call the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to discuss further actions on 1300 651 160.

Further Information

Additional resources and factsheets are available for your organisation to download and distribute to your staff and students on the DHHS [website](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-education-sector-novel-coronavirus) and on the Department of Education and Training [website](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx)