

Information for Trade Partners

H1N1 Influenza 09 Outbreak – Update 11/06/2009

The Australian Government has introduced a number of significant measures in light of the emergence of the H1N1 virus internationally. *These measures have been introduced to help prevent the spread of the virus and to protect the health of its citizens and visitors from overseas.*

Australian tourism remains open for business and continues to welcome travellers from around the world.

[As of 11 June 2009, there have been 1,263 confirmed H1N1 Influenza cases in Australia since the first case was confirmed more than a month. All States and Territories have now had at least one confirmed case of the virus.](#)

Health officials have reported that people in Australia infected with the H1N1 have been mildly affected and have recovered quickly.

Phase – SUSTAIN

Health authorities Australia-wide are focusing on Australian school children as the virus seems to be very highly transmissible in children.

Victoria is now in a modified SUSTAIN phase of the pandemic plan, to manage the impact of this strain of influenza in the State. However, there is no longer a need to quarantine everyone who has been in contact with a confirmed case of H1N1.

For more details on the impact of moving into SUSTAIN phase please read the fact sheet attached which has been issued by the Victorian Department of Health.

Travel to Australia

Steps already taken to prevent the spread of the H1N1 virus - such as border protection measures and the identification and follow up of cases - will continue. Australia, however, continues to welcome travellers from around the world.

It is important to remember that while the official alert level has been raised, there are still only a small number of confirmed cases in Australia, and the symptoms people are experiencing are relatively mild. [Australia has one of the best health systems in the world to manage and treat this new disease.](#)

[The Australian tourism industry is also well prepared to respond to H1N1. The industry has implemented preventative and risk reduction strategies and visitors should feel confident about visiting Australia.](#)



Australian Government



In response to the developing international situation Australian authorities have put measures in place at airports which include:

- Before landing aircrew will use the onboard announcements to inform passengers that people feeling unwell with flu symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.
- Passengers considered to have flu like symptoms will be assessed on arrival to see if medical attention is required.
- Australia's eight international airports also have thermal scanners in place to detect travellers with elevated body temperatures. The airports are Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, and Darwin. Passengers who are detected by the scanners as having a raised temperature will then be seen by medical staff.
- Health Declaration Cards have been distributed to airports and airlines. The cards will be handed out by airlines to incoming passengers so that they can self-identify if they are feeling ill.
- For the information of arriving passengers, new health message signs will be displayed at international airports.

Health authorities advise there is no need to wear face masks in Australia and that one of the most effective ways to protect you, your friends and family from the flu (whether seasonal or pandemic) is to practise good personal hygiene. That includes regular washing of hands, covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and staying at least one metre from anyone who is unwell.

The Australian Government has robust plans in place to deal with influenza outbreaks. Australia also has a large stockpile of anti-viral medications that can be used if needed. More information on these measures is available at www.health.gov.au.

A hotline has also been established for the public to receive health information about the outbreak of the H1N1 virus. **The number is 180 2007.**

Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) 2009

Tourism Australia is working closely with Tourism Victoria, the Victorian Department of Health and the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to develop responses to H1N1 in preparation for ATE.

The situation is being monitored on a daily basis and preparations are being put in place to reassure delegates attending ATE that the event continues to be a dynamic celebration of Australian tourism experiences.

Tourism Australia will continue to provide updates and for the latest information please visit the Trade Events website

<http://www.tradeevents.australia.com/teo3/eventModule/home.do?contentPageId=20143&eventModuleId=26489>

The latest information from the Victorian Department of Health can be viewed via the following link: <http://humanswineflu.health.vic.gov.au>