

Coronavirus Update

March 11, 2020

Travel to Australia

On March 10, Australia modified its assessment of risk of exposure to Covid-19 from international travel. This has been simplified to:

Higher Risk Countries: Korea, Iran, China, Italy

Moderate Risk Countries: All other countries (including New Zealand)

At the same time, Australia has adapted its case definition for a 'Suspicious Case' for Covid-19 to include fever or symptoms and ANY international travel within 14 days.

Implications for Travel to Australia

Any New Zealand athlete or team member who becomes unwell within 14 days of arriving in Australia, will be considered a 'Covid-19 Suspect Case'.

Being considered a suspect case results in a cascade of events, including a public health assessment, Covid-19 testing, isolation and potential hospitalisation. It is likely that travel would not be possible, until Covid-19 is excluded.

Preparation for Travel to Australia

NSO's should also have a strategy for managing unwell team members while overseas, during the Covid-19 situation.

As a result of the new status in Australia, it is recommended that teams or individuals travelling to Australia to compete, confirm in advance what the particular situation is for Covid-19 assessment and management in the relevant Australian state.

All athletes/support should travel with a face mask – to be utilised should they become sick – to allow for immediate isolation and separation, and minimise potential contamination of other individuals.

Relevant Links

Australian MOH Country definitions:

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

Australian MOH Case Definitions

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/2019-ncov-case-definition.aspx>

