

## Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV Proposed Advice

Dear Bishop, Monsignor, Father and Deacon,

You would be aware that health authorities across the nation are responding to the emergency in Australia of the Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV from China. As always, the safety, health and wellbeing of our employees, volunteers and parishioners our priority and we will continue to monitor the situation and update services as required.

### What is Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

2019-nCoV is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

To date, there have been two confirmed cases in Queensland.

Nationally, there are seven other confirmed cases – four in New South Wales and one in Victoria.

### Signs and Symptoms:

The virus can cause a range of symptoms, ranging from mild illness to pneumonia. People may experience:

- fever;
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat or headaches; or
- difficulty breathing in some cases.

### Exclusion from Worship or Parish Activities

- If public health authorities have informed an individual that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), even if they don't have symptoms must self-isolate for 14 days.
- If an individual has recently travelled to visited Hubei Province of China they need to self-isolate for 14 days after leaving Hubei Province.

### How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

- Cleaning hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding contact with anyone who has flu-like symptoms
- Avoiding unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals.

### Other resources:

- [Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [Smart traveller](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Fact sheet for educational services \(PDF\)](#)
- [Resources for health professionals](#)

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to speak with myself or a member of the WHS team.

Warm regards,

Sue Lloyd  
Director Work Health and Safety