

Coronavirus

COVID-19 and Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centres



Linkwest has received enquiries from our member organisations seeking further information and guidance about the current COVID-19 Health Alert.

As a result, this information has been sourced from the Australian Government and State Government websites.

Quick facts

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus
- Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia
- Some people recover easily, others may get very sick very quickly
- There is evidence that it spreads from person to person
- Good hygiene can prevent infection
- If you suspect you may have coronavirus symptoms or may have had close contact with a person who has coronavirus, you should contact the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

Who should be restricted from attending neighbourhood and community resource centres?

Anyone who meets the following criteria **should not** visit a Centre during this time:

- Anyone who has left, travelled or transited through one of these **high risk countries: China, Iran, Italy or South Korea** in the last 14 days (they must self-isolate themselves for 14 days from date of leaving)
- Anyone who has left, travelled or transited through one of these **moderate risk countries: Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand** (they must monitor their health for 14 days after leaving that country, and if they develop a fever or cough, seek medical advice urgently and isolate themselves).
- **Been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus** in the last 14 days (they must self-isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case).

- **Are showing any cold or flu-like symptoms.** If you have any symptoms, call the dedicated hotline on **1800 020 080**. Even if your symptoms are not related to coronavirus, users must refrain from visiting the Centre until they are fully recovered of their symptoms.

Should the Centre remain open?

At the moment, this remains the decision of the management and committee.

In the event that circumstances worsen and there is a directive from the Department of Health or your funding agency (i.e. DoC or DPIRD) for Neighbourhood and Community Resource Centres to temporarily close their operations, Linkwest will be in contact with its members.

Employment obligations outlined by Fairwork

See the Fairwork Ombudsman website at <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws>

Fair Work Act s. 524 – 525

http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/fwa2009114/s524.html

Under the Fair Work Act, employers may send employees home for reasons outside their control such as severe and inclement weather and natural disasters, equipment breakdown or industrial action. This is known as a stand down.

Pay during stand down

During a stand down period, an employee would not be paid. The employer should refer to Fairwork for more information before making a decision on this as there are significant implications depending upon individual circumstances.

Other options

Employers may consider other options instead of standing down employees.

These could include inviting employees to take a period of paid leave, such as annual leave or arranging any other paid or unpaid leave by agreement between the employee and the employer.

An employer can only direct an employee to take annual leave in some situations. For example, when the organisation is closed during the Christmas and New Year period or an employee has accumulated excess annual leave.

Depending on the type of position, working from home or another work site may be a viable option, **flexibility is key.**

Ten ways to reduce the risk of coronavirus

- **Wash** hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. **Dry** with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **Try** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **Cover** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **Isolate** yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies.
- **Phone** your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **Continue** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and now is the time to quit smoking. Call the Quitline 137 848.
- **Don't** wear a face mask if you are well.
- **Buy** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol.
- **Get** the flu shot (available April).
- **Shaking hands** is optional!

Promote these translated resources

Please download and print out the **translated resources** in the languages most relevant to your communities to ensure our CALD communities are informed:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources#translated-resources>

The English version can also be found at this same link.

Where should I look for the latest information?

The WA Government's Department of Health

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

Australian Government Department of Health: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Follow WA Dept Health on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WADeptHealth>

Follow Aust. Dept of Health on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/healthgovau/>

Information correct as at 12 March 2020
Check the recommended websites for daily updates.