



## GENERAL MESSAGE

4 March 2020

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a human respiratory illness. Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia. There is evidence that it spreads from person to person. Like a flu, good hygiene can prevent infection. Importantly, current government advice indicates there is no evidence that livestock or companion animals/pets such as dogs, cats can be infected with the virus.

#### Basic preventative measures

Everyone on the feedlot should practise good hygiene to protect against infections. Practising good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, drinking and after going to the toilet
- cover coughs and sneezes with a handkerchief, tissue or a flexed elbow (not hands), dispose of tissues, and use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser or wash hands regularly with soap
- if unwell, avoid contact with others (touching, kissing, hugging, and other intimate contact)
- avoid contact with anyone who has the following symptoms - fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea or diarrhoea.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has a useful [video series](#) on basic protective measures against coronavirus.

**IF YOU ARE UNWELL AND BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE AN INFECTION (VIRUS)  
SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION AND WEAR A PROTECTIVE FACE MASK**

#### Review your Biosecurity Plan and ensure staff understand procedures

Feedlots should review their Biosecurity Plan and reinforce the feedlot's biosecurity measures with all staff. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

#### Screening visitors

Consider screening visitors to the feedlot facility based on their travel history and risk profile. Consider deferring visitors who have recently travelled to countries the Federal Government has placed travel bans on or consider to be higher risk for COVID-19.

The Federal Government Health Department considers the following countries to be at higher risk for COVID-19 - **Mainland China, Iran, Italy, South Korea** - and advises the following:

- If are returning from these countries, you need to monitor your health for the next 14 days.
- If returning from mainland China or Iran you should self-isolate for 14 days.
- If returning from Italy or South Korea, and you work as a healthcare worker or as a residential aged care worker, you should not attend your regular work for 14 days.

#### Be mindful of where your staff may have travelled

Be aware of where staff have travelled and implement restrictions where advised. The Federal Government Health Department currently advises that in the following scenarios staff **CAN NOT** go to work if they have:

- left, or transited through mainland China in the last 14 days (they must isolate themselves for 14 days from leaving mainland China)
- left, or transited through Iran on or after 1 March, they must isolate themselves until 14 days after leaving Iran
- been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus in the last 14 days (they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case).

Employees who are in isolation due to one of the above situations should alert their employer. Depending on the type of work, and provided the employee is well, they may want to discuss alternative arrangements such as working from home.

## What to do if you or your staff contract COVID-19

The Federal Government Health Department advises that if you or your staff are confirmed to have COVID-19, then the infected person needs to isolate themselves to prevent it spreading to other people and follow the prescribed isolation guidance:

- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance>

## Resourcing and contingency planning

The National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) requires feedlot to have contingency plans in place. Feedlots should consider their human resource and business continuity contingency plans considering the emerging COVID-19 issue.

## What is ALFA doing?

ALFA will continue to engage with Animal Health Australia and the relevant State Government Departments on this issue. ALFA will advise members as relevant information comes to hand.

## RESOURCES?

### Federal Department of Health

- <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- Australian Government's Coronavirus Health Information Line: Phone: 1800 020 080.
- A collection of resources for the general public, health professionals and industry about coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>
- Latest COVID-19 Health Alerts: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

### Information for Employers

- [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/02/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-employers\\_1.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/02/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-employers_1.pdf)

### Information Posters

- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-know-the-signs>
- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-stop-the-spread>

### Health Direct

- <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus#what-is>

### NSW Government Department of Health

- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

### Local state and territory Health Departments

- <https://www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/local-state-and-territory-health-departments>

### World Health Organisation

- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

**Animal Health Australia (AHA)**

- AHA have produced an issues update which you can access via the ALFA website – [click here](#).