



6 February 2020

Michael Kaine  
National Secretary  
Transport Workers' Union of Australia  
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SYDNEY NSW 2000

e. [Michael.kaine@twu.com.au](mailto:Michael.kaine@twu.com.au)

Dear Mr Kaine

**Re: Coronavirus**

Thank you for your letter of 4 February 2020 regarding protections for workers at Brisbane Airport.

BAC has been closely monitoring information and advice from State and Federal Government departments in relation to the national response to 2019-nCoV in Australia and circulating regular (daily) updates to airport stakeholders. This includes information from the World Health Organisation and the Australian Government's Department of Health on how the virus is transmitted and how to prevent infection.

BAC has offered personal protective equipment (PPE) to its frontline workers and noted that this is not mandatory. Where our staff have elected to wear PPE, training has been provided. We have advised other airport stakeholders to undertake their own risk assessment for their staff and implement any controls they feel are required.

Changes at the airport to respond to the situation are determined by the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture (who manage Australia's biosecurity at the border) in conjunction with Queensland Health. BAC has been following the recommendations of these agencies and supporting them in implementing their response activities. BAC has been issuing a daily update to stakeholders with links to the above agencies' own advice bulletins.

An overview of the airport response to this matter was discussed during a meeting with the TWU, Workplace Health & Safety Queensland, airside worker representatives and organisations on 30 January 2020. A copy of the first circulated update was also shared via email with Peter Paulos and Richard O'Sullivan on 31 January 2020.

BAC is very conscious of the need to manage the fears of all members of the Brisbane Airport community to avoid undue concern. We do understand that, despite the Department of Health noting the level of risk to staff at the Australian border as "low", many people remain concerned about their personal level of risk. We have therefore placed several wall-mounted and free-standing hand sanitiser dispensers around the Domestic and International Terminal Buildings for use by passengers and airport workers. Fact-based messages on symptoms and general hygiene precautions are also being communicated via flight information screens, PA systems and baggage reclaim advertising signs.

Please contact Kersty Christensen, Head of WHS on (07) 3406 3137 if you wish to discuss any of this information in more detail.

Yours sincerely



**Gert-Jan de Graaff**  
Chief Executive Officer