



**TWU**  
Carrying Australia

# CORONAVIRUS HEALTH AND SAFETY FAQ

**MARCH 2020**

## WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)?

COVID-19 is a virus in the same family as the common cold. It is passed between people by contact with droplets from the lungs of an infected person. That can occur through infected droplets in the air or on surfaces.

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The consistent feature of the infection appears to be a fever. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

The current evidence is that it takes between 2 and 10 days before people who are infected become sick and develop a fever.

A person may not be showing any signs of illness, hence the ability for the infection to spread.

## HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu. When someone who has COVID-19 coughs or exhales they release droplets of infected fluid. Most of these droplets fall on nearby surfaces and objects - such as desks, tray or seats on an aircraft, tables or telephones.

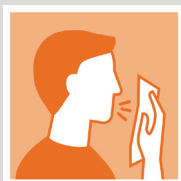
People could catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

If you are working within one meter of a person with COVID-19 you can catch it by breathing in droplets coughed out or exhaled by them.

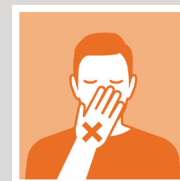
## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO AVOID CONTRACTING OR SPREADING THE VIRUS?



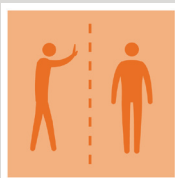
Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.



Follow good respiratory etiquette. Cover your face with the bend of your elbow or tissue if you cough or sneeze.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth.



If possible, maintain at least one metre distance between yourself and anyone who is symptomatic, such as coughing, sneezing or who presents with a fever.



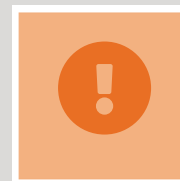
If you have any symptoms or have been exposed seek early medical advice. Call ahead to book an appointment and explain your symptoms or situation.



If you're having serious symptoms like difficulty breathing, call 000.



Report any known health concerns to your HSR or manager and get regular updates on procedures.



Raise any concerns about health and safety in the workplace with your manager, HSR or union official or delegate.

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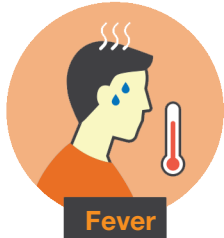
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# WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH THE VIRUS?

A casual contact is someone who has had less than 15 minutes face-to-face contact with a symptomatic confirmed case; or has shared a closed space with a symptomatic person for less than two hours. For example, you worked on an aircraft and later became aware a passenger on board was known or suspected to have COVID-19.

You do not necessarily need to be excluded from work provided you are well. Closely monitor your health. You are advised to self-isolate and contact your doctor if you have any symptoms, such as:



Seek medical advice promptly and advise your health practitioner of any recent travel or possible contact to the virus.

Your doctor can provide documentation for you to notify your employer as per normal practice.

## HOW ARE WE PROTECTING OUR JOBS AND INDUSTRY?

During this uncertain time, we're standing together to ensure union members get the best possible protections and rights, and that we keep transport operating across the country.

Together we're fighting for members from all transport sectors, including aviation, bus and gig economy workers on the front line of the virus, and truck drivers and distribution workers impacted by significant changes in demand.

We're working with SafeWork Australia, industry bodies, companies and the Federal Government to ensure workers are kept safe, their jobs, pay and conditions are protected as much as is possible at this time, and that workers will be prioritised when our industry returns to full health.

For more information on your union's response, visit [www.twu.com.au/coronavirus/update](http://www.twu.com.au/coronavirus/update)

If you have a workplace concern, contact your delegate, official or call your branch member services.

We'll keep you updated with regular reports on the impacts of the virus and ensure your rights are being protected. You also have the right to demand regular updates from your employer.

**SAME JOB, SAME PAY, SAME FIGHT.**  
**JOIN NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE.**

[www.twu.com.au/join](http://www.twu.com.au/join)

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