



Coronavirus Pandemic – resources for you and your business

The Coronavirus pandemic is 'accelerating', The World Health Organization warns as cases pass 300,000 globally. In the midst of this unprecedented situation, we've put together a number of resources of members.

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more serious diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Trusted sources of information

The most trusted sources of information is the [Department of Health](#) website which is being updated regularly.

Reduce the spread; frequently asked questions

This information sheet answers common questions about COVID-19 — what it is, how it spreads, if you should get tested, who is most at risk and if you should attend public gatherings. Read more [here](#).

Reduce the spread: social distancing

This information sheet answers common questions about social distancing: what it is, how to do it and why it's important. Read more [here](#).

Reduce the spread: good hygiene practices

This information sheet provides information about the way that the human body can provide places for disease-causing germs and how good personal hygiene habits can protect everyone. Read more [here](#).

Your business: working from home safely

Employers have a duty of care to ensure employees take reasonably practicable steps to ensure the safety of staff when being directed or encouraged to work from home. Read more [here](#).

Economic business support

The Australian Government have announced [economic support](#) to businesses including sole traders that are being affected. The Australian Tax Office have published a range of support and relief measures for small and large businesses [here](#). In particular small businesses are eligible for support by the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers [measure](#), which will provide between \$2,000 and \$25,000 tax free dollars to provide temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses that have an aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million and employ staff.

Complementary Medicines Australia

PO Box 450 Mawson ACT 2607 | Tel: +61 2 6260 4022 | Fax: +61 2 6260 4122 | Website: cmaustralia.org.au



Small businesses with less than \$3 million in owed debt will be permitted to defer loan repayments for six months under new emergency [measures](#) announced by the Australian Banking Association and authorised by the [ACCC](#).

There are more measures state by state, for example:

NSW has announced \$450 million for the waiver of payroll tax for businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million for three months (the rest of 2019-20). This means these businesses will save a quarter of their annual payroll tax bill in 2019-20.”

See: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/health-boost-and-economic-stimulus/>

Coronaviruses resources for health professionals Click [here](#) for resources from the Department of Health.

COVID-19 infection control training

The Australian Government has made available a 30-minute online training module for health care workers in all settings. It covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19. Full details and registration available here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

Your business: Travel advice

[The Department of Home Affairs have published information for travellers here, including self-isolation requirements for Australians returning home. The Department of Agriculture have further information on biosecurity and health screenings here.](#)

Your business: shut-down of Non-Essential Services

Many non-essential services are shutting down. These measures are designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to flatten the curve.

Stage-one measures announced on Sunday 22 March included the following ‘non-essential services’: pubs, clubs, cinemas, casinos, gyms and places of worship. Restaurants and cafes are only permitted to serve takeaways.

The most recent press conference by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, on Tuesday 24 March 2020, outlined the latest ‘non-essential services’ to which restrictive measures will apply as of midnight 25 March. These restrictions now extend to services such as beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons and tattoo parlours and spa and massage parlours. These new restrictions exclude health-related services in those areas, such as physiotherapy and health-related and allied health services.

Complementary Medicines Australia has made representations to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee seeking clarity that the supply of complementary medicines and healthcare foods are considered an essential activity during the current crisis. OneCAM has similarly sought clarification from Government on what is encompassed by “health-related and

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allied health services” on behalf of the complementary medicine practitioners and natural therapies industry.

New Zealand have moved to Level 4 restrictions at 11.59pm Wednesday 25 March. Their “unite against COVID-19” hub can be found here, including a list of essential services. Businesses in NZ who wish to stay open as essential services need to apply and register with urgency with MPI [here](#), unless they have 5 or fewer staff and can implement appropriate social distancing and precautions.

Regulatory Resources

The TGA have developed a hub for stakeholders to follow all TGA updates about COVID-19, which can be found [here](#).

The TGA have not released guidance specifically for manufacturers at this stage. CMA recommends that manufacturers take extra precautions to implement social distancing and thorough hygiene practices to reduce the risk.

The TGA have suspended until further notice all overseas GMP inspections. Affected sponsors should have been contacted by the TGA, including extending GMP Clearances where applicable. If you have any questions, please contact GMP@health.gov.au or GMPclearance@health.gov.au

Warning on advertising products for COVID-19

The TGA have released an [updated warning](#) about advertising products for the novel coronavirus, including complementary medicines, devices, unregistered products and air purifiers. The novel coronavirus or COVID-19 would be considered a ‘restricted representation’ as it is a serious condition that requires diagnosis and treatment by a health care professional, consequently serious fines would be faced for products with such claims (unless any representations are specifically authorised). Claims that are permissible for listed complementary medicines, if included on the ARTG entry for that product and with appropriate evidence, can be found in the [Permissible Indications Determination](#). The TGA have guidance available on [Permissible Indications](#) and [Advertising](#).

Food Standards Australia & NZ have released an alert; [Novel Coronavirus and Food Safety](#), which includes information for businesses.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) have provided a message for the health and medical research sector, providing increased flexibility for grant holders, [here](#).

We will keep you updated on this ever-evolving situation.

More information

If you have any questions relating to these matters, please contact CMA at CMA@cmaustralia.org.au

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