

## Information for Trade Partners

### H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) Outbreak – Update 12/05/09

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Australian tourism remains open for business and continues to welcome travellers from around the world.

**To date there has been no local transmission of H1N1 influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) in Australia.**

There has been just one reported case of the H1N1 influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) in Australia. This was a traveller returning to Australia from the United States of America after contracting the virus overseas. The person reported that she had been sick overseas and was promptly treated by Australian health authorities on arrival in Australia.

The Australian Government has introduced a number of significant measures in light of the emergence of the H1N1 virus internationally.

Australian authorities have put measures in place at airports which include:

- Before landing aircrew will use the onboard announcements to inform passengers that people feeling unwell with flu symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.
- Passengers considered to have flu like symptoms will be assessed on arrival to see if medical attention is required.
- Australia's eight international airports also have thermal scanners in place to detect travellers with elevated body temperatures. The airports are Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, and Darwin. Passengers who are detected by the scanners as having a raised temperature will then be seen by medical staff.
- Health Declaration Cards have been distributed to airports and airlines. The cards will be handed out by airlines to incoming passengers so that they can self-identify if they are feeling ill.
- For the information of arriving passengers, new health message signs will be displayed at international airports.

Health authorities advise there is no need to wear face masks in Australia

The Australian Government has robust plans in place to deal with influenza outbreaks. Australia also has a large stockpile of anti-viral medications that can be used if needed. More information on these measures is available at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

A hotline has also been established for the public to receive health information about the outbreak of swine flu. **The number is 180 2007.**



Australian Government



## **Background About the One Reported Case of H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) In Australia**

- On 9 May the Australian Department of Health and Ageing confirmed the first case of H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) with a person in Queensland testing weak positive.
- The person arrived in Brisbane on 7 May from Los Angeles and it is understood that the person contracted the disease while travelling in the United States. The person had become sick whilst overseas and the major symptoms of the flu virus had disappeared before they returned to Australia.
- On return to Australia the person had some minor symptoms, but this is not unusual for people with the flu, and it does not mean the person was infectious. The person has fully recovered from the virus and steps have been taken to ensure there was no local transmission of the virus.
- Finding a case of H1N1 influenza 09 (Human Swine Influenza) in Australia was inevitable but due to our strong border measures and world-class disease surveillance systems, we have been able to identify this case.
- At this stage there is no reason for the public to be unduly concerned. There is no evidence that there is person to person transmission of this new flu virus in Australia.