

REGION	COUNTRY	MISSION	EDUCATION TRADE COMMISSIONER	TC EMAIL ADDRESS	CURRENT SITUATION (I.E. TRAVEL ADVISORIES, FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS, AIRPORT CLOSURES, ETC.)
ASIA	Bangladesh				
ASIA	China	BEJING			China has not closed its borders for students wishing to return to China. However, the Chinese government is taking very cautious measurements to prevent cross infection from increasing imported cases. For example, international flights to Beijing will be redirected to 12 designated cities in China first and then take healthy passengers fly back to Beijing. You can find more details here. Most other provinces require all passengers to take 14 days self-isolation and foreigners could be asked to take quarantine at a local designated isolation center.)
ASIA		CHONQ	Peter Liao	Peter.Liao@international.gc.ca	Locally transmitted coronavirus cases in China have significantly subsided and most new cases now come from abroad. In order to minimize imported infections, China has announced a temporary ban on all foreign visitors even if they have visas or residence permits. This suspension doesn't apply to diplomats or those with C visas. People with emergency humanitarian needs or those working in certain fields can apply for exceptions. China is also limiting Chinese and foreign airlines to one flight per week and flights must not be more than 75% full. Authorities in Southwest China (Chongqing, Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou) have put in place restrictions for foreign visitors who will be ordered into a mandatory 14-day quarantine in designated local facilities upon arrival. Accommodation and meals related to such quarantine will be at visitors' own expense.
ASIA	Hong Kong	HKONG	Carol Cheung	Carol.Cheung@international.gc.ca	Starting from March 19, all arriving passengers who have been anywhere outside of Hong Kong in the last 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents or not, will be required to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine and medical surveillance. The travelers will be required to wear electronic wristbands and use a smartphone app to make sure they remain in isolation for a compulsory 14-day quarantine. This arrangement will take effect for three months. Further information: https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202003/18/P2020031800758.htm . The HK Government has also announced that it will ban non-Hong Kong residents, including transiting arrivals, coming from overseas countries or territories, including mainland China, Macau or Taiwan, arriving at the airport from entering Hong Kong from March 25. The ban will last 14 days. The Hong Kong government had closed most of its border checkpoints with mainland China, except the three borders (Shenzhen Bay port, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge and the airport), since 8 February. Further information about Hong Kong situation available on HK Government's COVID-19 website: http://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/
ASIA	India	DELHI	Anju Bhasin	anju.bhasin@international.gc.ca	India is in a state of complete lockdown starting March 24 with no movement of international or domestic travellers for a least 21 days. Hence, no Indian student may leave abroad nor any Indian student studying abroad can come back at the moment. The only exception may be an odd evacuation exercise done by the Indian government for its citizens stranded in a country.
ASIA	Japan	TOKYO	Megumi Akiyama and Hiroko Mikami	Megumi.Akiyama@international.gc.ca Hiroko.Mikami@international.gc.ca	Japanese government raised travel alert to Level 3 (avoid all travel) to 49 countries and places including Canada as of (March 31). https://www.anzen.mofa.go.jp/img_toko/danger/d_222.html (at this moment, MOFA only has a page in Japanese only. * List of denial of landing for foreigners (as of March 27); http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001316999.pdf •foreigners who have stayed certain countries/states/areas within 14 days prior to the application of landing, with or without symptoms. • foreigners who have Chinese passports issued in Hubei Province or Zhejiang Province in the People's Republic of China, and • foreigners who were on the cruise ship, Westerdam, departed from Hong Kong Also following people will not be permitted to enter Japan from 0:00 am of March 28th (JST). https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page25e_000326.html (1) Those who intend to enter Japan with single or multiple-entry visa issued by March 27th by Japanese Embassies or Consulates General in the subject countries (Note). (2) Those who possess a passport issued by the countries for which visa exemption measures are suspended (including APEC Business Travel Card holders) and intend to enter Japan without obtaining a visa. (Note: 7 countries in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam and Malaysia), Israel, Qatar, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bahrain) * Airports in Japan are all open * Airlines/air flights operations between Japan and Canada • Japan Airlines (JAL) is going to resume their JL18 flight to Vancouver, albeit less frequently, starting March 29th. They will be flying twice a week (Th, Su). * The other airline flights remain the same: • Air Canada 4 / NRT-YVR / W,F,Su • ANA All Nippon Airways / NH116 / M,W,F,Sa * Required a 14 day quarantine at a location: Anyone including Japanese nationals who has boarded an airplane or ships arriving from China or Republic of Korea at or after 0:00 on March 9 (JST), or from European countries, or Egypt at or after 0:00 on March 21 (JST), or from United States of America at or after 0:00 on March 26 (JST), or from Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Israel, Qatar, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Bahrain at or after 0:00 on March 28 (JST) and not be isolated or stopped is required to stay 14days at a location designated by the quarantine station chief and not to use public transportation in Japan. https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/newpage_00032.html (* According to the online article, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare conducts a COVID-19 test for all passengers from certain countries such as Italy, Spain etc.
ASIA	Pakistan	ISBAD	Mark Strasser	Atahar.Khan@international.gc.ca	As of 29 March, no/no international commercial passenger flights operating in or out of Pakistan. o Uncertainty around flight resumption timing; likely only that it will be "gradual" and from Islamabad only for April. o Unconfirmed indication from Government of Pakistan that PIA may be allowed to resume 1 weekly Toronto flight (from Islamabad) as of 5 April. Announcement anticipated by end week. o Government has flagged that "special waivers" may be requested by foreign governments to evacuate its stranded citizens. o Domestic commercial flights are suspended, other than to Northern Regions (Skardu and Gilgit) due to remoteness and limited road options.

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ASIA	Philippines	MANIL	Kylie Luu	Kylie.Luu@international.gc.ca	<p>As of 03-24, Philippine Airlines (PAL) cancelled the only option for direct flights to Canada until April 12th. While there are still flights to Canada through Doha and Haneda, there are no seats available until April 7th. Clark International Airport to suspend all commercial flights effective 04-03. It will only remain operational to service essential cargo flights and to support the GPH. (04-01)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIA Terminals 2 and 3 will be closed for commercial operations as more and more air carriers suspend operations. International flights will be departing out of NAIA Terminal 1. (03-28) • DOT-arranged sweeper flights to Manila has ceased. Small charter planes are permitted to operate. Foreign carriers are also permitted with Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) approval. (03-27) • Air space is effectively closed to domestic travel. GPH has permitted limited flights from provinces to Metro Manila for individuals with outgoing international flights. <p>State of National Emergency declared for three months. (03-25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Calamity for the entire PH declared for six months. (03-16) • COVID-19 Alert Level System raised to Code Red Sub-Level Two (highest). (03-12) • State of Public Health Emergency declared. (03-08)
ASIA	South Korea	SEOUL	Soo Hyang Kim	SooHyang.Kim@international.gc.ca	<p>As of March 27th, there are 9,332 COVID-19 confirmed cases with 139 deaths. After South Korea raised its alert level to the highest level "red" on Feb 23rd, it has implemented strong measures including temporary shutdown of schools at all level. After the winter break, Korean schools were supposed to start on March 2nd but as of March 27th, the school opening date is delayed until Monday, April 6th. (Source: ROK Ministry of Education)</p> <p>While Korea has not restricted air travel to Canada, many airlines have made and are likely to make commercial decisions to reflect these recent changes. In Korea, direct commercial flights between Seoul, Vancouver and Toronto will be impacted. Air Canada will suspend direct flights from Korea to Canada from April 1 to April 30 and Korean Air will suspend direct flights from Korea to Canada from April 3 to April 30. From April 3 onwards, non-direct commercial travel between Korea and Canada is expected to continue. Travelers from Korea can use a local carrier to transit through cities such as Tokyo, London, Paris, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, New York JFK, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington where Air Canada flights are available to one of four designated Canadian airports (Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal).</p> <p>Some countries have begun to impose entry restrictions on travellers from South Korea because of the COVID-19 virus. If you are planning to visit other countries after South Korea and before you return to Canada, please check for any new health-related entry requirements on your itinerary.</p> <p>In-bound travellers to Korea will undergo fever checks and will have to submit the Health Declaration form and the Travel Record Declaration form when they arrive at the entry hall of the airport. Travellers who do not have fever or other symptoms will be able to proceed with the usual immigration procedure to enter Korea. Travelers who have fever or other symptoms will be escorted to the screening station for an epidemiological survey and, if necessary, will be tested for COVID-19. If the test result is negative, they will proceed with the entry procedures to enter Korea. If the test result is positive, they will be quarantined and hospitalized for treatment. In addition, effective at 00:00 hours on March 22, 2020, the Korean government will apply the Special Entry Procedures to all inbound travellers, foreign and domestic, travelling from Europe - all of them will be tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>For more: Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en</p>
ASIA	Thailand	BNGKK	Pan Sriviboone	Nitchawan.Sriviboone@international.gc.ca	<p>Travel from Canada to Thailand</p> <p>All Thai nationals returning to Thailand require the presentation of;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Health certificate confirming that the passenger is "fit to fly" from a medical professional, (2) Letter issued by Royal Thai Embassy, Thai Consular Office or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand certifying that the passenger is Thai National returning to Thailand. It should be noted that Thai must do an online request in order to get this letter. Please visit http://www.thaiembassy.ca/en/about-embassy/ambassador-messages/online-registration-for-thais-residing-in-canada <p>For more information, please send an email to consular@thaiembassy.ca</p> <p>Thai nationals can still enter Thailand by mode of air transport, but available flights are diminishing. The airports will be closed at some point in near future, once Thai nationals have traveled into Thailand, and all flights to Thailand are cancelled. The current stage of emergency is effective until April 30.</p> <p>People who return from Canada is required self-quarantine for 14 days, but there is no clear directions yet, whether it will be strictly forced as a prepared facility after the emergency situation order is in use.</p> <p>Travel from Thailand to Canada</p> <p>Based on yesterday's advising on flights to return to Canada, these airlines still operate flights to Canada as of yesterday: ANA, Lufthansa, Korean Airlines, Qatar Airways, China Southern Airlines. This may change in near future.</p>
ASIA	Vietnam	HOCHI	Tu Nguyen	Tu.Nguyen@international.gc.ca	<p>Vietnam is discouraging Vietnamese abroad from returning, and those who wish to return must contact Vietnamese missions abroad regarding any essential travel back to Vietnam. All Vietnamese returning from overseas will be quarantined for 14 days. Due to capacity overload of quarantine areas in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi regions, Tan Son Nhat Airport (HCMC) and Noi Bai Airport (Hanoi) were instructed to stop receiving Vietnamese passengers from overseas, starting March 25 - 31 and March 26 - 31 respectively. From March 30 - April 15, almost all domestic flights from/to Ho Chi Minh City and from/to Hanoi are stopped, only a limited number of routes still operational: i) Hanoi - HCMC - Hanoi, ii) Hanoi - Danang/Phu Quoc - Hanoi, iii) HCMC - Danang/Phu Quoc - HCMC. Vietnamese students are encouraged to visit the following websites for more information: http://news.chinhphu.vn/ and https://vietnamembassy.ca/vi/</p> <p>All airlines are requested to stop transporting passengers to Vietnam from April 1 - 15. Though lockdown is not yet announced, community quarantine is applied nationwide from April 1 to 15.</p>

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EUROPE	France	PARIS	Fevronia Novac	Fevronia.Novac@international.gc.ca	State of emergency declared on March 24th for the next two months. Frontiers closed at the border to the EU and the Schengen Area since 2020-03-17 at 12 noon. Closed internal borders with Germany and Spain..
EUROPE	Germany	BRLIN	Edouard Huot	Edouard.Huot@international.gc.ca	Air: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany is enforcing EU travel ban. If entry requirements for Germany and country of destination are met, transit through Germany in order to return to the home country or the country of habitual residence is possible for non-EU nationals. This applies to Canadian citizens or permanent residents currently in another EU or EEA country and wishing to transit through Germany to travel onwards to Canada. In the case of international (non-Schengen) flights connecting in Germany, travelers must stay within the international transit zone. Transiting travelers are recommended to carry clear evidence of a connecting flight. Land: Additional to EU travel ban implementation, Germany has closed its land borders with Austria, France, Luxembourg, Denmark, and Switzerland.
EUROPE	Italy	ROME	Paula Bucalossi	Paula.Bucalossi@international.gc.ca	Limited commercial flights options remain available in Italy There are no direct flights from Italy to Canada. Transit points from Rome are limited to Frankfurt and London to Montreal, Toronto Vancouver. No flights to Calgary. Domestic flights are maintained at least once a day to most airports that remain open (one per region).
EUROPE	Spain	MDRID	Laura Ballesteros	Laura.Ballesteros@international.gc.ca	Spain has closed all airports. Spain is trying to help Spanish citizen abroad looking to return to Spain. They should address local Consulate. For more information: http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Consulados/TORONTO/es/Consulado/Paginas/Articulos/Informaci%C3%B3n-sobre-el-COVID-19.aspx Domestically, again at reduced capacity, air and train travel remain available.
EUROPE	Switzerland	BERN	Lakshmi Kern	Lakshmi.Kern@international.gc.ca	Switzerland is amongst the world's top 10 most affected countries. A State of Emergency is in place until April 19, all business closed except for essential services and closures of public spaces/parks; a stay at home measure has been imposed.. Entry still permitted for Swiss citizens, residents, workers. Travellers may continue to transit through Switzerland with proof. Website has been updated with generic COVID-19 pandemic message. https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/switzerland-suisse/index.aspx?lang=fra Information on travel: Zurich, Geneva and Basel airports: Zurich airport: https://www.zurich-airport.com/passengers-and-visitors/arrivals-and-departures/departures/ Geneva airport: https://www.gva.ch/en/Site/Passagers/Vols/Departs Flights to Canada greatly reduced / Last direct flight ZRH – YYZ 28 March, from then on via LDN or FRA/ Trains reduced, no cross-border / Hotels open Travel advisories in Switzerland for international students, the best und updated contact points shall be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Office of Public Health FOPH The State Secretariat for Migration : For Canadian students currently in Switzerland or planning to come to Switzerland, we advise them to get in contact with the International Relations Service of their Swiss university.
EUROPE	Russia	MOSCO	Stephanie.Loiseau	Stephanie.Loiseau@international.gc.ca	As of March 27, all international flights from/out of Russia have been suspended. Domestic flights are still operating. Airspace is not completely closed. Moscow authorities declared a citywide curfew as of March 30 for all citizens. Citizens may leave their home only under certain circumstances: emergency medical care; travelling to work if one is unable to work remotely; groceries and pharmacy at the nearest location; walking pets, and taking out the garbage.
EUROPE	Turkey	ISTBL	Vefa Atag	Vefa.Atag@international.gc.ca	ISTBL is tracking airlines and daily departure options, namely Qatar Airways to Doha, Belarusian Airlines to Minsk, and TAROM to Bucharest for onward travel. Potential flights are being validated/confirmed on a day-by-day basis. Turkey has imposed quarantines on 41 towns, villages and neighbourhoods in 18 provinces across the country.
EUROPE	Ukraine	KYIV	Liliana Zhylina	Liliana.Zhylina@internatioanl.gc.ca	On Mar 25, Ukraine declared a nation-wide emergency situation until April 24. This includes a 30-day extension of the quarantine. Regular commercial flights will not operate until April 24; land and sea borders will remain closed too. The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine has been organizing numerous flights, and several trains, to repatriate over 80,000 of its citizens (mostly from Europe).
MIDDLE EAST	Algeria	ALGER			
MIDDLE EAST	Iran	ABDBI	Mabelle Sawaqued	Mabelle.Sawaqued@international.gc.ca	No formal state of emergency has been announced by Iranian officials though according to official numbers, Iran is the third-most impacted country by this pandemic (after China and Italy). 11 countries in the Middle East have closed their land and air borders to Iran, including Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Armenia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, UAE, Oman, and Georgia. Several countries have banned travelers from Iran, including the U.S. and Japan. On March 25, authorities warned of a second COVID19 outbreak; banned any new trips between cities.
MIDDLE EAST	Morocco	RABAT			
MIDDLE EAST	Saudi Arabia	RYADH	Uday Sequeira	Uday.Sequeira@international.gc.ca	KSA - International/domestic commercial flights halted until further notice in KSA.
AFRICA	Cameroon	YUNDE	Fatou Touré	Fatou.Touré@international.gc.ca	As of March 19, all passenger flights in and out of Cameroon from abroad are suspended, with the exception of cargo flights under strict restrictions. All air, land and maritime borders have been closed since March 18.
AFRICA	Nigeria	ABUJA	Kerri Greenhough	alexia.jablonski@international.gc.ca	Nigerian international airports are closed to incoming international flights effective 23 March at 23:00 for 30 days, with the exception of emergency aircraft and any other aircraft that might be so approved by the appropriate authority. Requests for approval of other flights are required and shall be addressed to the Federal Ministry of Aviation. A state of emergency was declared on March 17th. All Nigerian official land crossings are closed. They shall remain closed for human traffic for 4 weeks effective 23 March. On 30 March, President Buhari signed the Covid-19 regulations into law which officially declared Covid-19 a dangerous infectious disease in Nigeria, thus enforcing movement restrictions.

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SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Brazil	SPALO	Fernanda Albano	Fernanda.Albano@international.gc.ca	<p>So far, there are no guidelines from the Ministry of Health or Anvisa (equivalent to FDA in Brazil) for stopping national and international shipments or landings due to the coronavirus so airports are in normal operation. The main Brazilian airlines have signed an agreement to exempt their passengers from fees for rescheduling their tickets, so several flights are being canceled due to the lack of passengers. In case of travel, it is recommended to contact the airline to confirm the flight conditions.</p> <p>As of March 23rd, a 30-day restriction on the entry of foreign passengers from China, European Union member countries, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, Australia, Japan, Malaysia and South Korea. Canada was not mentioned.</p> <p>The restriction does not apply to native or naturalized Brazilians, immigrants with prior residence permit in Brazil, foreigner who will meet with Brazilian family member in the country or people authorized by the government in view of the public interest. The measure also does not affect foreign professionals in the service of an international organization, foreign employees authorized by the Brazilian government and cargo transportation.</p> <p>Specific recommendations for foreign students have not been issued by Government Officials.</p> <p>Air Canada will cancel all flights to Brazil starting March 28 until TBD.</p>
SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Chile	STAGO	Margot Edwards & Priscilla Lopez	margot.edwards@international.gc.ca priscilla.lopez@international.gc.ca	<p>Borders are closed to foreigners (except if in transit). Chileans can enter but must undergo a 14 day quarantine. Most airlines are cancelling their flights until further notice. Last Air Canada flight departing Canada, Marh 26th from Toronto. Initial plan is to reinstate flights end of April or after 15 May but this will depend on the evolution of COVID-19.</p>
SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Colombia	BGOTA	Claudio Ramirez	claudio.ramirez@international.gc.ca	<p>All terrestrial, maritime and fluvial Colombian borders closed until May 30th. Entry in Colombia by all non-residents is forbidden. 14 days quarantine for nationals and foreigners residing in the country who return from trips abroad.</p> <p>A nation-wide mandatory quarantine from March 25-April 13.</p> <p>As of March 24, Colombian airspace has been closed for international flights and will close for domestic flights on March 25. Three exceptions exist: humanitarian emergencies, transport of cargo and goods, and force majeure. Exceptions are considered on a case by case basis.</p>
SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Jamaica	KNGTN	Yasmin Chong	Yasmin.Chong@international.gc.ca	<p>Airspace still open but flights restricted to outbound only after March 24 in Jamaica. Jamaican borders closed to incoming passengers (with some exceptions) effective March 24 for 2 week period.</p>
SOUTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Mexico	MXICO	Laura Garza	Laura.Garza@international.gc.ca	<p>International airports in Mexico City are still open. Many airlines have announced limited and/or cancellations of their international air flights in the upcoming days.</p> <p>Mexico has implemented temperature-screening measures at some of its airports. Passengers with abnormal temperatures and travel to high-risk areas might be subject to additional health screening.</p> <p>Beyond standard travel documentation, travelers to Mexico do not require any additional documentation to enter or exit.</p> <p>The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE) has announced that Mexican passport issuance service in all metropolitan and foreign delegations of the country will be suspended from March 27 to April 19, 2020.</p> <p>VAC will be closed as of today. Visa online applications will continue, but with no possibility of biometrics all applications will apparently be on hold.</p> <p>Between March 23 and April 19, the Mexican government has declared a social-distancing campaign consisting of four pillars.</p> <p>All Higher Education Institutions are currently teleworking and delivering their courses online. Education associations, organizations and government representatives are also teleworking for the time being.</p>
OCEANIA	New Zealand	CNBRA	Laura Thompson	Laura.Thompson@international.gc.ca	<p>Monday March 23, 2020 - Jacinda Ardern raises NZ's alert level to level 3, with a 48 hour transition period to level 4.</p> <p>Schools across New Zealand will close as of Wednesday March 25, 2020, for four weeks, except to the children of essential workers such as doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and police. This will be temporary, and schools will close entirely from midnight Wednesday March 25, 2020.</p> <p>Chris Hipkins, Education Minister, has said work is under way to prepare for online learning</p>
OCEANIA	Australia	CNBRA	Laura Thompson	Laura.Thompson@international.gc.ca	<p>The federal government's advice is that it is safe to send children to school up to the end of the term, but some pupil-free days will be needed to plan distance learning. The Australian Government's position that schools should stay open is supported by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) — the key decision making committee on health emergencies.</p> <p>NSW: Schools remain open but it is up to parents to decide whether to send children to school, and parents have been advised to keep children home unless they need to work.</p> <p>Queensland: Schools remain open but it is up to parents to decide whether to send children to school. The Queensland Teachers Union has asked that schools shut or go 'pupil-free' so that teachers are shielded from the virus and can focus on mass remote learning.</p> <p>Victoria: Schools closed for school holidays. Due to return on 13 April.</p> <p>ACT: Schools are 'pupil-free' until the school holidays, but open to students who absolutely need to attend, such as those whose parents must attend work and cannot care for their children at home, as well as vulnerable children and those with additional needs. No child will be turned away.</p> <p>Tasmania: Tasmanian Premier Peter Gutwein said while schools remained open for now, they would close to students after Friday next week. From the 6th to the 9th of April schools would be student-free. The Tasmanian school term will end four days early to give teachers time to plan to provide home learning delivery for students.</p> <p>Northern Territory: Schools to remain open but optional for parents to send children. While classes in the Northern Territory are still planned to go ahead until the holidays, some schools have been preparing for weeks to make the switch to online learning.</p> <p>South Australia: Schools remain open but premier Steven Marshall recognises parents will take children out of school, allowing for increased social distancing.</p> <p>Western Australia: Schools remain open but laws relaxed so it's not compulsory. Resources will be provided for students to continue their studies from home for the remainder of the term. The WA Education Department has launched a new website called Learning at Home to help parents access those resources. The State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia is urging the state government to shut schools immediately, saying educators need time to prepare for the next phase of remote learning.</p>

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					<p>Updated information as of 3:00 PM AEDT, 25 March: All states and territories are working towards re-opening in term 2, depending on how the situation changes over the next few weeks. Schools across Australia remain open but confusion remains around the definitions of essential work and whether parents should send their children to school or not. There have been reports of some parents' children being turned away from schools in New South Wales and other states, despite the state and federal government's assurances that no student will be turned away. Teachers' unions worried about the health of their members have secured a meeting with Prime Minister Scott Morrison after issuing an escalating series of threats at state level.</p> <p>Tertiary Universities and other tertiary education providers were first hit by Covid-19 at the beginning of the school year (March), when 100,000+ students affected by the ban on travelling to Australia from China. Universities responded by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Offering discounted tuition to students stranded in their home country · Offering "support grants" of up to \$7,500.00 AUD depending on the institution for students attempting to travel to Australia · Advising students to get around the flight ban by quarantining themselves for 14 days in a third country unaffected by the ban. <p>The economic effect of losing Chinese students led some universities to take more drastic action, citing an unsustainable reliance on China as a source of international students. The University of Tasmania slashed their degree offerings from about 514 to 120 by 2021. Some universities have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 on campus. Responses have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Suspending classes for a week · Suspending all on-campus learning (libraries and services on campus still open) · Temporarily cancelling coursework <p>On 18 March, the Federal Government announced "university and higher education should continue at this time with risk mitigation measures". A host of universities – the University of Queensland, University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, University of Wollongong and University of Technology Sydney, among others – are rushing to transition their courses online. The Australian National University is pausing its teaching for a week from 23 March and says it is "stopping face-to-face teaching for lectures and moving to remote participation". The University of Sydney and Southern Cross University have each committed to delivering all of their classes remotely from 23 March. As of 24 March – the Federal government announced that about 230,000 students would receive increased welfare payments under the \$66 Billion coronavirus stimulus package. Students receiving Youth Allowance, Austudy and Abstudy will temporarily receive an increase to their payments and the waiting period and assets test requirements will be waived.</p>