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OFFICIAL

From: out of scope (DTF) out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 12:53 PM
To: out of scope (DTF) < out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Cc: out of scope (DTF) < out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL: Request to continue to work from home for next week

Thanks out of scope

From the data that I could gather, wholesale social isolation that China and Italy are implementing is not an optimal strategy to minimise harm from coronavirus.

The data suggests that the young in Victoria (below 40) can go about their business without much concern. 40-60 can wear protective equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) and go to work – they must take extra precautions at all times. Those above 60 (and those with weak respiratory systems) should mainly work from home and minimise interactions with others. This will minimise the hit to Victoria’s GSP and minimise health costs.

Copying out of scope I’m assuming the macro team is studying the published studies closely and working with DHHS to ensure a risk-based filter.

Regards

out of scope Sr Manager
Regulation Policy, Planning and Local Government
Department of Treasury and Finance | Level 11, 1 Macarthur St, Melbourne, 3002
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I work from 9:30 am to 3:45 pm all days excluding Thursday (0.6 FTE in all).

This office is located on the land of the Traditional Owners of the Kulin Nation.



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From: out of scope (DTF) < out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 11:27 AM
To: out of scope (DTF) < out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL: Request to continue to work from home for next week

Hi out of scope

Fine by me

Regards

out of scope

out of scope Director

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From: out of scope (DTF) <out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 11:11 AM
To: out of scope (DTF) <out of scope @dtf.vic.gov.au>
Subject: OFFICIAL: Request to continue to work from home for next week

out of scope

Although the risk at moment is generally very low in Victoria, any such non-zero risk is not uniformly distributed. The risk (based on current studies) seems to rise after age 60 (death rate that is 36 times normal flu, compared with barely 2 times normal flu death rates for people below 40 – source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-age-sex-demographics/>). It may make sense for people above 60 to more actively minimise the chance of catching the virus, while the young can carry on life as usual.

I was not able to locate an age-based risk assessment on the DHSS or other government websites. The only relevant thing I have found is at the Fairwork website: <https://www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media-releases/website-news/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws#health-and-safety-information> – extract below:

What if an employee wants to stay home as a precaution?

If an employee wants to stay at home as a precaution against being exposed to coronavirus, they will need work from home (if possible) or to take some form of paid or unpaid leave, such as annual leave or long service leave. Requests are subject to the normal leave application process in the workplace.

To minimise risks as I'm in the high risk category (being 60), I'd like to request approval to work from home for the next week, except for essential meetings for which I'll come over to DTF. I would like to participate in any non-essential meetings via skype chat or skype calls or via a telephone hook up. At the moment, no essential meeting is scheduled for the next week.

out of scope

Regards

out of scope Sr Manager

Regulation Policy, Planning and Local Government

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