



COVID-19 Global Mobility update

26 - 30 June 2020

Dear all,

Please find below our most recent Mobility related global updates specifically related to the COVID-19 crisis and current guidance or measures that different countries are putting into place.

If you have any questions on below, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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Combating COVID-19 with resilience

[Visit our Deloitte COVID-19 webpage](#) to see a collection of Global Deloitte insights to help businesses manage and mitigate the risk associated with COVID-19.

Thailand - BOI issues process for foreign national employees to enter Thailand on special request

What is the change?

The Board of Investment has issued the process for a BOI-registered company to make a special request to bring foreign national employees to Thailand regardless of whether or not they already hold a work permit / permission to work (BOI Pre-Visa Approval). The process can take up to 20 working days.

The following documents are required for this process:

- Letter from the company citing the necessity to bring the foreign national employee to work for the company in Thailand. The letter must also include the following information:
 - Reason for bringing foreign national employee to work in Thailand.
 - Loss or negative impact on company if it does not bring the foreign national employee to work in Thailand. If the contingent loss or value thereof can be demonstrated, this should be provided as well.
 - What stage of BOI project the company is operating in.
 - The specific expertise of the foreign national employee that the company requires.
 - Intended Thailand arrival date / flight information (if applicable).
- Copy of passport. If the foreign national employee already has a visa under the BOI privilege, copy of the most updated BOI visa must be provided.
- Copy of work permit (if applicable).
- Copy of Pre-Visa Approval (if applicable).
- Copies of evidence and/or contracts, showing the loss or negative impact on the company, in the event that such foreign national employee could not enter Thailand, this *may be* requested by the officers after the submission, as they may deem necessary.

Restrictions on international commercial flights to Thailand have been extended until June 30. Foreign national employees are still required to obtain the following before entering Thailand: a completed and signed “Declaration Form” obtained from the Thai Embassy/Consulate; a “Fit to Fly” Health Certificate issued within 72 hours before departure; a copy of their Health Insurance Policy with at least USD 100,000 coverage for Covid-19 in Thailand. Upon arrival in Thailand, foreign nationals must go into 14-day quarantine in a government-designated Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) at their own expense and comply with all health regulations under Thailand’s Emergency Decree.

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Malaysia - Entry permission for expatriates who are abroad

What is the change?

With effect from 24 June 2020, the following expatriate categories are permitted to enter Malaysia without the need to apply for permission:

- a. Employment Pass Category I (EP I), Dependants and Foreign Maids
- b. Residence Pass-Talent (RP-T), Dependants and Foreign Maids

Holders of other visa categories, including Employment Pass Category II (EP II) and Employment Pass Category III (EP III) with their Dependants and Foreign Maids, Professional Visit Pass, and Long Term Social Visit Pass (LTSVP), will be subjected to additional approval from the Immigration Department of Malaysia. Please refer to the relevant guidelines [here](#).

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Singapore - Updated Stay Home Notice (SHN) requirements for pass holders based on their travel history

What is the change?

Pass holders who have only been to the following countries/regions in the last consecutive 14 days prior to their entry into Singapore can now serve their 14-day SHN at a suitable place of residence that is only occupied by them or their family members or hotel at their own cost:

- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Germany (applies to entry approvals granted from 25 June 2020)
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Macao
- Mainland China
- New Zealand
- Republic of Korea
- Taiwan
- Vietnam

They are not allowed to serve SHN in dormitories or in premises that are occupied by non-family members. The SHN accommodation must fulfil the prevailing SHN advisory and guidelines at www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19.

Pass holders who have been to all other countries in the last 14 days prior to their entry into Singapore, are required to serve their 14-day SHN at a dedicated SHN facility. The pass holder will be transported by the Government to the dedicated SHN facility upon arrival into Singapore.

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Singapore - Responsibility for costs of foreign employee's SHN accommodation and COVID-19 test

What is the change?

From 17 June 2020, 11.59 p.m., pass holders arriving in Singapore will be subjected to charges for their 14-day SHN accommodation at dedicated facilities (S\$2,000 including GST) and COVID-19 test (up to S\$200 including GST). The responsibility for bearing the costs of a foreign employee's SHN accommodation and COVID-19 test is defined as follows:

- **Existing work pass holders returning from overseas:** For those who left Singapore for work, employers must bear the costs in full and are not allowed to pass on any cost to the employees. For those who left Singapore for personal reasons, employers and employees can come to a mutual agreement on who bears the costs or how to share them. This arrangement also applies to employees who are affected by Malaysia's Movement Control Order (MCO).
- **New work pass holders with in-principle approvals planning to enter Singapore for employment:** For Work Permit holders, employers must bear the costs in full and are not allowed to pass on any cost to the employees. For other work passes, employers and employees can come to a mutual agreement on who bears the costs or how to share them.

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United Arab Emirates - Dubai eases travel restrictions

What is the change?

Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management has implemented a procedure for residents wishing to return that differs from the federal policy of the Emirates.

Key Points:

- Dubai Immigration (GDRFA) will process entry requests for residents holding a Dubai-issued visa and will provide an "instant response."
- Following approval, the GDRFA issues resident re-entry applicants an Application Number to book a flight to return to Dubai through the Emirates Airline website. As of yet, other airlines have not resumed regular flights to Dubai.

- Dubai residents returning to the emirate from abroad must also follow strict arrival procedures, including testing, self- or designated-hotel quarantine until the test results are issued (and, if positive, 14-day quarantine), the use of a smartphone tracking app (the COVID-19 DXB), and adherence to the latest protocols in place at the time of arrival. In addition, every passenger entering Dubai must present a complete [health declaration form](#) and [quarantine undertaking form](#). Employers who are responsible for an employee's accommodation that is not suitable for quarantine may be required to arrange alternative suitable accommodation.
- Dubai residents may now travel to other countries from Dubai. Before departing or returning, they must complete a health declaration form confirming that they have no COVID-19 symptoms.

The federal government has announced that it will begin allowing tourist travel to the UAE effective July 7.

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Switzerland - Schengen Area, EU, EFTA entry restrictions ending

What is the change?

Switzerland recently announced the lifting of entry restrictions for Schengen Area, EU and EFTA countries.

Key Points:

- As of June 15, entry restrictions on travelers from Schengen Area countries have been lifted, and Swiss border controls with these countries have also ended.
- Free movement of individuals between Switzerland and all EU/EFTA countries and the United Kingdom is also allowed as of June 15.
- The following six countries will remain on the high-risk list after June 15: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom. Restrictions will remain in effect for third-country nationals who wish to enter Switzerland from those countries.
- Individuals with free movement rights will be allowed to enter the country beginning June 15. Foreign nationals benefitting from the free movement of rights from the six high-risk countries will be allowed to enter Switzerland, as will their family members irrespective of their nationality. Individuals posted to

Switzerland for 90 days or less in accordance with the Agreement on Free Movement of Persons (AFMP) no longer need to obtain a confirmation of notification in order to enter Switzerland.

- The Federal Council has announced that, as of July 6, it will lift all COVID-19-related restrictions on the entry of workers from non-EU/EFTA countries.
- As of July 6, the cantons will also begin processing residence applications from third-country nationals who are not planning to work in Switzerland, in accordance with the normal criteria.
- Third-country nationals are still not permitted to travel to Switzerland on vacation, and entry for a stay of less than 90 days that does not normally require a permit, as well as entry for short educational courses, medical treatment and non-urgent business meetings, will only be authorized in cases of special necessity. Switzerland plans to lift these remaining entry restrictions at the same time as the other Schengen states.

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Russia - Medical examination to include COVID-19 test

What is the change?

The Ministry of Health has announced that, effective June 27, foreign nationals who must pass a medical examination to obtain work-related documents must also pass a COVID-19 test.

Key Points:

- Those applying for the following immigration documents must pass a COVID-19 test:
 - Work permit (WP)
 - Work patent
 - Temporary residence permit (TRP)
 - Permanent residence permit (PRP)

At this time, foreign nationals working as HQS do not need to pass a medical examination to obtain their work permit, and thus, the requirement to pass a COVID-19 test should not apply to them.

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Kuwait - Lockdown, travel restrictions updated

What is the change?

The government has issued new guidelines for travel abroad, and has updated the lockdown regulations for some areas of the country, as it works toward entering phase 2 of the five-phase reopening plan.

Key Points:

- Curfew time is now from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.
- As of June 21, complete isolation has been lifted in some areas including Hawally, Al Nuqrah, Maidan Hawalli and some blocks of Khaitan.
- The following individuals are now permitted to travel abroad:
 - Those seeking treatment for a critical health condition.
 - Students studying abroad who must travel to enter university or take an exam.
 - Citizens whose husband or wife lives abroad.
 - Citizens who reside abroad.
 - Those with permission from the Ministry of Interior to travel for other reasons.
 - In all the above cases the period of travel must not be for less than 30 days.
- Those wishing to travel for any of the above reasons must submit a request to the Ministry of Interior at least 10 days before departure. Requests must include travel documents and the entry visa for the destination country.
- They must also sign a pledge undertaking that they will be responsible for all COVID-19 and travel-related expenses including medical treatment and quarantine.
- Airlines must ensure all passengers traveling to Kuwait have a negative PCR test not more than four days old at the time of departure. The PCR test result must be in Arabic, and passengers must submit it to the health authorities after arriving in Kuwait.

Kuwait implemented a five-phase plan to reopen the country, which originally included a curfew from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Travel to Kuwait continues to be restricted to Kuwaiti citizens, their immediate family members and domestic workers accompanying them. Government entities closed temporarily in April, and new work permit applications continue to be suspended.

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Qatar - COVID-19: New entry regulations implemented

What is the change?

Qatar has implemented a new quarantine regulation for travelers flying out of Doha as part of its third phase of reopening.

Key Points:

- Until July 31, only Qatari Nationals, their traveling companions, those with a Permanent Resident Card or other exceptionally approved Visa holders may enter Qatar.
- From Aug. 1, pre-approved (i.e., those from “low-risk countries”) QID resident permit holders will also be able to travel to Qatar; however, they are advised not to book a quarantine hotel package until the government confirms approval to return.
- QID resident permit holders returning from Aug. 1 to Sept. 15 will not be able to board a flight to Qatar without first receiving authorization to travel to Qatar, and then by providing confirmation of a 14-day quarantine hotel booking. The Qatari authorities have provided no guidelines yet regarding pre-authorization when returning to Qatar.
- Qatari Nationals, their traveling companions, those with a Permanent Resident Card or other exceptionally approved Visa holders departing from Qatar on or before Sept. 15 must hold a confirmed 14-day quarantine hotel booking for their return, which they must prepay against a non-refundable voucher obtained from the government-approved quarantine hotel. Currently, only Qatari nationals are eligible to book the hotel package.
- QID resident permit holders with return tickets are not required to present confirmation of a self-funded quarantine hotel upon exiting from Qatar.

For further details, FAQs and hotel booking please refer to Discover Qatar [website](#).

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For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit gowork.ges.deloitte to view Deloitte’s Digital travel Map.



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