



## Immigration news alerts

### COVID-19

COVID-19 (also previously referred to as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV) is a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. While it is unclear how easily this virus is spreading between people, authorities across the globe are issuing travel health notices related to this outbreak.

In this series of news alerts, we will provide you with immigration updates to keep you up to date on the rapidly evolving situation within our region.



For the latest country-specific travel restrictions and immigration information in relation to COVID-19, visit [gowork.ges.deloitte](https://gowork.ges.deloitte) to view Deloitte's digital travel map (beta release).

*Note: If you have trouble accessing any of the links below, please try to copy and paste them directly into your browser.*

### Bangladesh

#### **Suspension of international flights to/from Bangladesh**

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh | 28 May 2020

With effect from 12.01 a.m. (BST) on 31 May 2020 until 11.59 p.m. (BST) on 15 June 2020, all scheduled international commercial passenger flights to/from Bahrain, Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, and UK shall not be allowed to land at any airport in Bangladesh.

Foreign nationals with valid visas will also be required to produce a medical certificate (with English translation) to be obtained within 72 hours of travel, indicating that he/she is "COVID-19 negative". The individual will need to submit this certificate upon arrival at the entry point (airport/sea port/land port) in Bangladesh.

Passengers of Bangladesh origin and in possession of a "No Visa Required (NVR)" status, who are unable to present the required medical certificate upon arrival, will be institutionally quarantined for 14 days. If the individual is able to present the required medical certificate, he/she will be home/self-quarantined for 14 days instead. However, if diagnosed with symptoms of COVID-19 upon arrival, he/she will also be subjected to an institutional quarantine for 14 days.



[More information](#)

## India

### **Guidelines on phased reopening**

The Times of India | 30 May 2020

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the nationwide lockdown has been extended in containment zones until 30 June 2020. The MHA has also issued guidelines for the phased re-opening of activities to be implemented after phase four of the lockdown ends on 31 May 2020. To view more details, including the full MHA order, please refer to the link below.



[More information](#)

## Philippines

### **The Bureau of Immigration (BI) Manila launches online appointment system**

Daily Tribune | 1 June 2020

The BI begins its online appointment system at its main office in Intramuros, Manila, on 1 June 2020, Monday, in compliance with physical distancing protocols. BI Commissioner Jaime Morente said only clients with appointment codes will be served during the specified date and time. Government-issued or other valid identification cards must be presented.



[More information](#)

### **Restrictions on international travel still in effect under General Community Quarantine (GCQ), says BI**


Inquirer | 29 May 2020

The BI will continue to implement international flight travel restrictions at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) despite the lifting of the modified enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila, and its move to GCQ.

Under existing guidelines approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force Against Infectious Diseases (IATF), only overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), Filipino citizens and their

spouses and dependents; permanent residents; and foreign diplomats are allowed to enter the country.

All foreigners can leave anytime but Filipinos are not allowed to leave unless they are OFWs, permanent residents or holders of student visas in their country of destination.

 [More information](#)

### **Guidelines for filing and issuance of Alien Employment Permits (AEP)**

Department of Labour and Employment | 29 May 2020

In response to the declared state of public health emergency, the Department of Labour and Employment has issued a set of guidelines for the filing and issuance of the AEP, covering the online submission process for the following steps: company registration; filing of new/renewal of AEP applications; release of AEP cards; and requests for cancellation of AEPs. Full details can be found in the link below.

 [More information](#)

### **Release of the AEP cards of approved applications**

Department of Labour and Employment | 28 May 2020

The Department of Labour and Employment has engaged a courier service for the delivery of approved AEP cards. This service will be available from 2 June 2020. Detailed procedures and pricing rates can be found in the link below.

 [More information](#)

## **Singapore**

### **Announcement on arrangements for foreigners returning to the Philippines**

Ministry of Manpower (MOM) | 1 June 2020

The Philippines Embassy is arranging a flight for foreigners returning to the Philippines on 3 June 2020. Tickets can be purchased on a first come, first served basis from the [Philippine Airlines](#).

 [More information](#)

### **Appointments for services at Ministry of Manpower Services Centre (MOMSC) or Employment Pass Services Centre (EPSC)**

MOM | 31 May 2020

With Safe Reopening measures in place from 2 June 2020, the number of appointment slots for services at MOMSC or EPSC will be limited. Applicants are advised not to be worried if they are unable to obtain a slot or make an appointment yet as the following measures are in place:

- For card registration, MOM will automatically extend the expiry dates of notification letters to give pass holders more time to make an appointment. No hard copy letters will be issued for this extension. In the meantime, pass holders can remain in Singapore with their notification letters or card

replacement letters. Those who telecommute or work in [permitted services approved by Ministry of Trade and Industry \(MTI\)](#) may use the letters as proof of the validity of their passes.

- For issuance of these passes, please refer to the respective webpages for options to consider: [Work Holiday Pass \(under Work Holiday Programme\)](#); [Work Holiday Pass \(under Work and Holiday Visa Programme\)](#); [EntrePass](#); and [Personalised Employment Pass](#).

The following groups are also advised **not** make an appointment yet:

- Pass holders who need to do a medical examination for card registration and have not done so. Please only make an appointment **after completing** the medical examination. Clinics will likely resume providing this service in Phase 2 (Safe Transition).
- Pass holders who are currently staying in dormitories gazetted as isolation areas. Please only make an appointment **after you are allowed** to leave the dormitory. Otherwise, it is an offence.

### More information

#### **Resumption of business activities from 2 June 2020**

MTI | 31 May 2020

From 2 June 2020, businesses will be allowed to resume activities in a phased manner. In an email circular issued by the MTI on 31 May 2020, businesses are reminded to take the following actions:

- Check if your business may resume [here](#).
- If your business is permitted to resume on-site operations on 2 June 2020, you are required to declare your manpower details using the “Permissions and Manpower Declaration” link at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg> within two weeks of resuming operations. The details that you are required to provide are: (i) the total number of employees/workers working on-site, and (ii) the proportion of these employees/workers who are working part-time and/or shifts. The portal is now available to receive your declaration.
- Before you resume on-site operations, it is essential for your business to implement the [Requirements for Safe Management at Workplaces](#), and comply with sector-specific advisories and requirements. More information can be found [here](#).

### More information

#### **Entry into Immigration and Checkpoint Authority (ICA) Building strictly for selected services and by appointment only; one-off delivery of identity cards and passports to applicants**

ICA | 30 May 2020

Starting from 2 June 2020, the ICA at the ICA Building, 10 Kallang Road, will resume counter services in a limited and controlled manner, strictly for selected services and by appointment only. Members of the public should continue to use ICA’s e-Services available at [MyICA](#), such as for passport application, identity card (IC) re-registration, and extension of Short-Term Visit Pass.

ICA counter services will only be available for services that cannot be done or completed online. Examples include collection of passport and IC, and completion of formalities for long-term immigration facilities. ICA will not accept walk-ins for these

services. Before making their way to the ICA Building, members of the public have to first obtain an appointment date and time. To find out how to make an appointment and view the full list of e-Services available, please refer to the link below.

ICA will also arrange delivery of the IC and passport to residents who have applied for an IC under mandatory/optional IC re-registration, or applied for a passport, between 1 January and 31 May 2020, and have not collected their IC or passport because of the circuit breaker. Applicants will not be charged for this one-off delivery service. ICA is in the process of arranging for the delivery service, and will contact all affected applicants and provide them with the details of this service from mid-June to end July 2020.

 [More information](#)

## Sri Lanka

### Extension of visas for foreigners in Sri Lanka

Department of Immigration and Emigration | 29 May 2020

With the extension of validity periods for all visa types to 11 June 2020, all visas expiring between 7 March 2020 and 11 June 2020 will be exempted from the overstay penalty.

However, all visa applicants are advised to pay the relevant visa fees and obtain endorsements for the visas in their passports by securing an appointment with the Department of Immigration and Emigration on or before 11 June 2020 at this [link](#).

Only those who possess a valid Appointment Notice will be permitted to enter the Department. Please note that only a limited number of appointment slots will be given out per day. Applicants are advised to arrive 15 minutes before their allocated timeslot. If they do not arrive within a 10 minutes grace period, they will not be allowed into the premises, and will need to obtain a new appointment.

 [More information](#)

## Contact

Should you have any comments or questions arising from this newsletter, please feel free to contact me.



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