



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 updated on the rapidly evolving situation within our region.

Australia

COVID-19 and the Australian border

Department of Home Affairs | 15 March 2020

On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government announced that all travellers to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. In addition, there is now a ban on cruise liners from foreign ports arriving at Australian ports for 30 days.

Travel restrictions will continue to apply to travellers arriving from any part of

mainland China, Iran, Republic of Korea and Italy. Australian citizens and permanent residents will still be able to enter, as will their immediate family members (spouses, legal guardians or dependants only). They will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the day they left China, Iran, the Republic of Korea or Italy.

Australia will deny entry to anyone who has left or transited a country subject to travel restrictions within the previous 14 days, with the exception of Australian citizens; permanent residents; New Zealand citizens resident in Australia; immediate family members of Australian citizens and permanent residents including spouses, minor dependants and legal guardians; and diplomats.



[More information](#)

Hong Kong

Department of Health (DH) to further strengthen health quarantine arrangements on inbound travellers from overseas

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government Press Releases | 15 March 2020

Starting from 0.00 a.m. on 19 March 2020, the DH's Port Health Division officers will issue quarantine orders for compulsory home quarantine to people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to the Ireland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Egypt in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents.

Meanwhile, the quarantine measures announced earlier for people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to Korea, Iran, Hokkaido in Japan and Schengen Area in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Principality of Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland) in the past 14 days remain unchanged. For more information, please refer to the next article below.



[More information](#)

DH to further extend and adjust health quarantine arrangements on inbound travellers from overseas

HKSAR Government Press Releases | 13 March 2020

The health quarantine arrangements on inbound travellers from overseas will be adjusted as follows:

Quarantine at quarantine centre

People arriving in Hong Kong who have been to the following countries/areas in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents, will have to stay in a quarantine centre for quarantine.

1. Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do in Korea (also applies to non-Hong Kong residents from 0.00 a.m. on 17 March 2020)
2. Iran

3. Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions in Italy

Compulsory home quarantine

Starting from 0.00 a.m. on 14 March 2020, people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to the following countries/areas in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents, will be subject to compulsory home quarantine.

1. Italy (except Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions)
2. Bourgogne-Franche-Comte and Grand Est regions in France
3. North Rhine-Westphalia region in Germany
4. Hokkaido in Japan
5. La Rioja, Madrid and Pais Vasco regions in Spain

Starting from 0.00 a.m. on 17 March 2020, people arriving in Hong Kong who have been to the following countries/areas in the past 14 days, regardless of whether they are Hong Kong residents, will be subject to compulsory home quarantine.

1. Korea (except Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do) (also applies to non-Hong Kong residents)
2. Schengen Area in Europe (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy (except Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto regions), Latvia, Principality of Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland)

Members of the public who are currently outside Hong Kong, in particular those studying abroad in Europe or America who might now or will be on term break, are urged to come back to Hong Kong as soon as possible if they have plans to return.



[More information](#)

New Zealand

INZ response to the COVID-19

Immigration New Zealand | As of 15 March 2020

As part of its response to managing the COVID-19 outbreak the New Zealand Government announced on Saturday, 14 March 2020 further border measures. These include extending travel restrictions and self-isolation requirements for most people arriving into New Zealand. These restrictions will be reviewed after 16 days.

Travel restrictions

The travel restrictions are determined by the Ministry of Health as Category 1 and apply to any foreigners who:

- Have been present in, or transited through, Iran or mainland China, 14 days prior to them departing for New Zealand. Mainland China includes all of China, but not Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR, and not Taiwan.
- Were a passenger or crew on board the Diamond Princess Cruise ship operated by Princess Cruises, within 14 days of disembarking from the cruise ship.

The decision to deny boarding or refuse entry to New Zealand does not apply to New Zealand citizens, permanent residents, residents with valid travel conditions and their immediate family, who will still be able to come to New Zealand. Australian citizens and permanent residents are also not subject to the travel restrictions if New Zealand is their primary place of established residence.

Self-isolation for arrivals

If you are not subject to the travel restriction, you may travel to New Zealand. Everyone must follow Ministry of Health guidance for self-isolation. You must register with Healthline and self-isolate for 14 days when arriving in New Zealand if you have been in a Category 1 or Category 1B location.

From 23.59 Sunday, 15 March 2020, Category 1B locations are all parts of the world except parts of the Pacific. Please refer to the [Ministry of Health website](#) for the most up to date information including a map showing the world and those excluded as part of the Pacific.

Airline crew, cargo ship crew and cruise ship crew are excluded from self-isolation requirements.



More information

Singapore

Additional precautionary measures to prevent further importation of COVID-19 cases

Ministry of Health | 15 March 2020

Singapore will implement additional precautionary measures to further reduce the risk of importation of COVID-19 to Singapore. These include travel advisories against all non-essential travel abroad, and further restrictions on travellers coming into Singapore.

Border restrictions

From 16 March 2020, 23.59 hours, all travellers (including Singapore Residents, Long Term Pass holders, and short-term visitors) entering Singapore with recent travel history to ASEAN countries¹, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN)². In addition, they will have to provide proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN, for example a hotel booking covering the entire period, or a place of residence they or their family members own. They may also be swabbed for testing for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic. This is because of the risk of community transmission in these countries and evidence of cases that have been imported from these countries into Singapore.

In addition to the SHN requirement, from 16 March 2020, 23.59 hours, all short-term visitors who are nationals of any ASEAN country will have to submit requisite information on their health to the Singapore Overseas Mission in the country they are resident before their intended date of travel. The submission will have to be approved by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) before travel to Singapore, and the approval will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Singapore checkpoints. Short-term visitors who arrive in Singapore without the

necessary approval will be denied entry into Singapore. They are therefore advised to secure the approval before making definitive travel bookings.

As previously announced, residents and long-term pass holders returning from mainland China (outside Hubei province³), Iran, Italy, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, and Spain will continue to be issued a 14-day SHN upon return to Singapore, while short-term visitors from these areas will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore.

However, Minister for National Development Lawrence Wong has clarified that Singaporeans and Malaysians travelling into Singapore from Malaysia via land or sea will be exempted from the new border restrictions on ASEAN countries, due to the close proximity and high inter-dependency between the two neighbours. Separate arrangements for precautions are being worked out by a bilateral joint working group. More information can be found [here](#).

Travel advisory

With immediate effect, Singaporeans are advised to defer all non-essential travel abroad. This advisory will apply for 30 days, and will be reviewed thereafter. This is to reduce the risk of Singaporeans contracting COVID-19 infection while overseas during this global pandemic.



More information

MOM entry approval and Stay-Home Notices extended to ASEAN countries, Japan, Switzerland and the United Kingdom

Ministry of Manpower (MOM) | 15 March 2020

From 16 March 2020, 23.59 hours, MOM will require all work pass holders (including dependants) with travel history to ASEAN countries¹, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days and planning to enter/return to Singapore, to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey. This is regardless of the nationality of the work pass holder. The entry approval requirement applies to:

- a. Existing work pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- b. In-Principle Approval holders who have yet to enter Singapore.

Upon arrival in Singapore, all affected work pass holders will be placed on a mandatory 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). When applying for entry approval, employers will be required to declare to MOM that they have arranged for suitable premises to house these entering/returning employees for the duration of their SHN.

Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#). Employers should inform their affected employees (including their dependants) not to make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been received from MOM. The employers will be required to send the MOM approval letter to the employees who will need to show it to the airline staff upon check-in and at the ICA checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

The entry approval requirement for work pass holders (including dependants) with travel history to mainland China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, France, Spain and Germany within the last 14 days, remains unchanged.



More information

Footnotes

¹ ASEAN countries besides Singapore: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

² The SHN will not apply to travellers transiting in Singapore without leaving the transit area.

³ Persons returning from Hubei province are subject to quarantine.

Contact

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



Christina Karl
SEA Immigration Leader
Deloitte Southeast Asia

+65 6800 3997
ckarl@deloitte.com



Deloitte's 175th milestone year is the first anniversary to be acknowledged and celebrated globally.

This uniquely unifying moment offers the opportunity to demonstrate the value of Deloitte's role in the world—past and future. Deloitte has been making an impact that matters for 175 years and will continue to do so for many years to come.



[Dbriefs](#) is a series of live, on-demand and interactive webcasts focusing on topical tax issues for business executives. Obtain your Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit for career development when you watch the webcast.

[Subscribe for the latest webcasts.](#)



Access the latest global and regional tax news, information, and resources from **Deloitte tax@hand**: A digital platform designed for global tax professionals, available anytime, on any device.

deloitte.com/taxathand



Deloitte Southeast Asia | Add Deloitte as safe sender

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (“DTTL”), its global network of member firms, and their related entities (collectively, the “Deloitte organisation”). DTTL (also referred to as “Deloitte Global”) and each of its member firms and related entities are legally separate and independent entities, which cannot obligate or bind each other in respect of third parties. DTTL and each DTTL member firm and related entity is liable only for its own acts and omissions, and not those of each other. DTTL does not provide services to clients. Please see www.deloitte.com/about to learn more.

Deloitte is a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax & legal and related services. Our global network of member firms and related entities in more than 150 countries and territories (collectively, the “Deloitte organisation”) serves four out of five Fortune Global 500® companies. Learn how Deloitte’s approximately 312,000 people make an impact that matters at www.deloitte.com.

Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a member firm of DTTL. Members of Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited and their related entities, each of which are separate and independent legal entities, provide services from more than 100 cities across the region, including Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Osaka, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo and Yangon.

This communication contains general information only, and none of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (“DTTL”), its global network of member firms or their related entities (collectively, the “Deloitte organisation”) is, by means of this communication, rendering professional advice or services. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect your finances or your business, you should consult a qualified professional adviser.

No representations, warranties or undertakings (express or implied) are given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this communication, and none of DTTL, its member firms, related entities, employees or agents shall be liable or responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever arising directly or indirectly in connection with any person relying on this communication. DTTL and each of its member firms, and their related entities, are legally separate and independent entities.