



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.

Philippines

Philippines lifts travel ban on Filipinos working in Hong Kong, Macau

The Straits Times | 18 February 2020

The Philippines has allowed Filipinos with jobs in Hong Kong and Macau to return to these territories, easing travel restrictions it imposed following the coronavirus outbreak that first surfaced in China.

A top Foreign Ministry official said in a Twitter post on 18 February 2020 that those working in Hong Kong and Macau are now exempted from the travel ban, "subject to certain procedural formalities".

Filipinos still cannot travel to Hong Kong and Macau as tourists or students. Philippine carriers have already suspended direct flights to these destinations.

President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman Salvador Panelo told reporters the workers would have to sign a "written declaration" that they are aware of the risks they are taking in going back to Hong Kong and Macau.



[More information](#)

Singapore

Actions to be taken by employers who wish to bring their foreign employees from mainland China into Singapore

Ministry of Manpower | Updated as of 18 February 2020

If your foreign employees have travelled to mainland China (outside Hubei) within the last 14 days and are arriving in Singapore from 18 February 2020 2359 hours, you must do the following:

1. Ensure you can fulfil the **additional obligations** to bring your foreign employees in. If your foreign employees have dependants, who are not issued any work passes including Letter of Consent, the employees must also fulfil their **obligations towards their dependants**.
2. **Request for MOM's approval:**
 - **For new or existing work pass holders, including those with LOC:** The employer needs to request for approval. Both the employer and work pass holder are responsible for ensuring that LOA/SHN is observed.
 - **For DP or LTVP holders who are not employed (i.e. not issued a work pass, including LOC):** The local sponsor (i.e. the employer of EP/S Pass holder) needs to request for approval. The EP/S Pass holder and DP/LTVP holder are responsible for ensuring that LOA/SHN is observed.

Applications open daily from 12:01 p.m. and close at 12 p.m. the next day. Requests received during this period are for arrivals within 7 days after the application closes.



[More information](#)

General advisory for employers if a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19 is detected at the workplace

Ministry of Manpower | Updated as of 18 February 2020

Employers may become aware that someone at the workplace is a confirmed or suspect case. The person could be an employee, or other personnel employed by their suppliers or contractors. Once they are aware, MOM encourages employers to do the following:

- Provide timely information to employees on latest developments;
- Reassure employees and other relevant persons, e.g. customers, of the measures being taken to ensure their well-being at the workplace;
- Show care and concern to persons who are either confirmed or suspected to have been infected with COVID-19; and
- Coordinate with their supplier or contractor to manage their own employees, if applicable.

Please click on the link below for more information on the specific actions to take in the following situations:

- a. **If someone at the workplace is a suspect case; and/or**
- b. **If someone at the workplace is a confirmed case**



[More information](#)

Beyond the region

Guidance issued by Israel's Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health | 16 February 2020

Israel's Ministry of Health advises reconsidering nonessential travel to Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, South Korea and Taiwan, in addition to the travel advisory regarding China.

In addition, any person who visited China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore or Macau for any duration over the last 14 days is required to be quarantined at home for 14 days from the last date of stay at any of these locations.

The decree requiring those arriving in Israel from Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Macau to be quarantined at home has entered into effect on 16 February 2020. The quarantine requirement does not apply to travellers who only had a connecting flight from these locations.



[More information](#)

Contact

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



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