

Singapore | Immigration | 21 April 2020



## 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.*

## Indonesia

### List of regions with large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) in Indonesia

*(Translated from Bahasa Indonesia)*

Kompas.com | 20 April 2020

As of Saturday (18 April 2020), a number of provinces/cities are implementing large-scale social restrictions (PSBB) with the approval of Minister of Health, Terawan Agus Putranto. These include the following:

- Jakarta (from 10 April 2020)
- Bogor, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Bekasi, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Depok, West Java (from 15 April 2020)
- Greater Bandung, West Java (from 22 April 2020)
- West Sumatra (from 22 April 2020)
- Pekanbaru, Riau (from 17 April 2020)
- Makassar, South Sulawesi (from 24 April 2020)
- Tegal, Central Java (from 23 April 2020)

Once enforced, the PSBB is effective for a period of 14 days, and can be extended further if necessary.



[More information](#)

## Nepal

### Temporary shutdown of visa services

Department of Immigration | 16 April 2020

The Government of Nepal decided on 14 April 2020 to extend the ongoing lockdown period, and suspend all front door services until 27 April 2020 to control the COVID-19 outbreak in Nepal. The Department of Immigration also suspends all its visa services during the aforementioned period, and requests foreigners in Nepal to remain patient regardless of their visa term. The visas will be regulated after regular services resume, as per the [8 April 2020 notice](#) issued by the Department of Immigration.



[More information](#)

## Singapore

### Two Singapore Citizens and one foreigner to be charged after breaching their Stay-

## Home Notices (SHN)

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority | 20 April 2020

Two Singapore Citizens and one foreigner will be charged in court on 21 April 2020 after breaching their Stay-Home Notices (SHN).

The Government had announced that with effect from 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore with travel history to any ASEAN country<sup>1</sup> within the last 14 days would be issued an SHN and must remain in their place of residence at all times for a 14-day period. From 20 March 2020, 2359 hours, these requirements were extended to all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore. Further measures were put in place, from 9 April 2020, 2359 hours, requiring all residents, Long-Term Pass holders and short-term visitors entering Singapore to serve their 14-day SHN at dedicated facilities.

ICA has investigated each of the three individuals' wilful breaches of SHN requirements. In consultation with the Attorney-General's Chambers, they will be charged in court on 21 April 2020 for their respective offences under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations. A person convicted of an offence under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

ICA will not hesitate to take firm enforcement action against those who fail to comply with SHN requirements. Besides prosecuting offenders under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations, ICA may also cancel their immigration facilities and bar them from re-entering Singapore, where applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam



[More information](#)

## Precautionary Stay-Home Notices for Work Permit and S pass holders in construction sector

Ministry of Manpower | 18 April 2020

As a precautionary move, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will require all Work Permit holders and S Pass holders in the construction sector to be placed on mandatory stay-home notices (SHNs). This SHN will take effect on 20 April 2020 and end on 4 May 2020 (both dates inclusive). The Dependant Pass holders of these workers are also to be placed on SHN.

The SHN applies to all workers and their dependents in any place of accommodation, or any place which is converted into a place of accommodation on a temporary basis, or otherwise. It excludes those staying in any dormitory gazetted as an isolation area, or any foreign employee dormitory as defined in the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act

2015, as special arrangements have already been catered for them.

During the SHN period, MOM enforcement officers will conduct regular checks on the workers to ensure compliance to SHN requirements. MOM will take strict enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the SHN requirements, including the suspension of work pass privileges and revocation of work passes. More information on the steps to be taken by employers can be found in the next article below.

### More information

#### **Advisory to employers that certain foreign employees in the construction sector (and their dependants) are put on Stay-Home Notice from 20 April 2020 to 4 May 2020**

Ministry of Manpower | 18 April 2020

As the number of COVID-19 infected cases involving foreign employees in the construction sector is increasing, Foreign Employees (as defined below) and their Dependants (where applicable), are put on Stay-Home Notice (SHN) effective from 20 April 2020, 0000 hours to 4 May 2020, 2359 hours (SHN Period).

#### **Definition of foreign employees**

“Foreign Employees” are foreign employees in the Construction Sector holding Work Permits and S Passes, residing in a Specified Place of Accommodation as defined in the Notifications to Employers (see [Appendices A and B](#)). It excludes any dormitory gazetted as an “isolation area”, or any foreign employee dormitory as defined in the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act (FEDA) 20151 as special arrangements have been made for foreign employees living in these places of accommodation. “Dependants” are family members of the Foreign Employees issued with Dependant’s Passes. This is a precautionary measure taken to minimise the risk of further community transmission of COVID-19.

#### **Steps to be taken by employers**

1. Employers are required to take the following steps by **19 April 2020, 2359 hours**:
  - i. Issue the additional work pass conditions to your Foreign Employees (and require and take reasonable steps to ensure that your Foreign Employees issue the additional special conditions to their Dependants, if any).
  - ii. Remind your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) to fully comply with the additional conditions, failing which their Work Permits, S passes or Dependant’s Pass may be revoked.
  - iii. Ensure that each of your Foreign Employee and their Dependants (if any) has a local mobile number registered with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and inform your Foreign Employees and their

- Dependants (if any) to download the WhatsApp and [TraceTogether](#) apps.
- iv. Inform your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) that enforcement officers may contact them via WhatsApp audio and/or video call during the SHN Period.
  - v. Require and take reasonable steps to ensure your Foreign Employees and their Dependants (if any) monitor themselves for any signs of fever, cough, breathlessness or a runny nose including providing thermometers for the workers to record their temperature.
  - vi. Arrange to deliver food to your Foreign Employees during the SHN Period, as they are not allowed to leave their premises to buy food. More information on this can be found in [MOM's advisory to employers on food arrangements for construction foreign employees on Stay-Home Notice from 20 April 2020 to 4 May 2020](#) issued on 21 April 2020.
2. From 20 April 2020 onwards, employers are required to [submit a daily declaration](#) on compliance to the measures listed above.

#### **Exemption appeal for Foreign Employees carrying out essential services**

For companies approved to carry out essential activities, employers may [submit an appeal to BCA](#) to allow your Foreign Employee(s) to leave their places of residence to perform work in respect of the permitted essential activities during the SHN Period. Appeals are subject to BCA's approval on a case-by-case basis, and the number of Foreign Employees approved may also be limited.



**More information**

#### **Contact**

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



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