



## 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.

#### **Hong Kong**

##### **Immigration Department services arrangements**

Hong Kong Government (HKSAR) Press Releases | 21 February 2020

The Immigration Department (ImmD) has announced the provision of services to members of the public from 24 February 2020 to 1 March 2020. For detailed opening hours of individual offices, please refer to the ImmD's official website or mobile application.

Meanwhile, other ImmD offices, including all Smart Identity Card Replacement Centres, and other public services will be temporarily closed and suspended.

Immigration control points, except for the arrangement made by the Government's separate announcement, will maintain normal operations. The 1868 hotline will continue to operate as normal to provide practicable assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong.

The measures will be implemented tentatively until 1 March 2020 and will be reviewed according to the situation. Detailed arrangements will be announced in due course.



[More information](#)

## Indonesia

### **Indonesia refuses entry to 118 foreigners to prevent virus spread**

The Straits Times | 24 February 2020

Indonesia has refused entry to 118 foreigners in a bid to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The measure was applied from 5 to 23 February 2020 at all immigration gates across the country, said Mr Arvin Gumilang, the spokesperson for Indonesia's immigration office, in a statement. "Among the reasons for the refusal were that the foreigners had stayed or transited in mainland China for 14 days," Mr Arvin said.



[More information](#)

## Singapore

### **Travel advisory in response to cases of COVID-19 in South Korea**

Ministry of Health (MOH) | 23 February 2020

In view of the recent increase in the number of confirmed cases in the Republic of Korea, particularly in Daegu city and Cheongdo county, the Ministry of Health advises travellers to avoid non-essential travel to Daegu and Cheongdo. MOH also reminds the public to continue to exercise caution when travelling to the rest of the Republic of Korea.

From 23 February 2020, the definition of suspect cases will be expanded to include persons with pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness who had been to Daegu and/or Cheongdo of the Republic of Korea, within 14 days before onset of symptoms.



[More information](#)

## Contact

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



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