



Immigration updates for Singapore COVID-19

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, Singapore has implemented a series of precautionary measures to reduce the risk of importation of COVID-19 to Singapore, including restrictions on travellers coming into Singapore.

This update will cover frequently asked questions related to the following topics:

- Outbound travel advisory
- Entry into Singapore
- Obtaining MOM entry approval for Work Pass holders
- Leave of Absence (LOA)
- Differences between Quarantine Order (QO) and Stay-Home Notice (SHN)
- Temporary housing support for employers affected by Malaysia's Movement Control order

Outbound travel advisory

Defer all travel abroad

In view of the heightened risk of further importation, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has advised Singaporeans to defer all travel abroad. This is to reduce the risk of Singaporean being infected with the virus when abroad, and spreading it to

other Singaporeans when they return. As travel restrictions may evolve quickly, travellers should check the latest travel restrictions before leaving Singapore.

Entry into Singapore

Returning Singapore residents

Returning Singapore residents (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) will be issued with a 14-day SHN¹ upon entry into Singapore.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) encourages employers to impose a LOA on all employees returning to Singapore between 14 and 20 March 2020 if they have not been issued with SHN. For more information on LOA, please refer to the corresponding section below.

Travellers with travel history within the last 14 days to Hubei province of Mainland China will be issued a QO. For more information on the differences between QO and SHN, please refer to the corresponding section below.

Returning Long Term Pass holders

To better manage the risk of importing the COVID-19, MOM is restricting the entry of pass holders into Singapore. All employers are strongly urged to defer bringing pass holders into Singapore.

All Work Pass holders and their dependents planning to enter/return to Singapore from any country are required to obtain MOM's approval before they can commence their journey. For more information on obtaining MOM entry approval for Work Pass holders, please refer to the corresponding section below.

All Long Term Pass holders (including Work Passes, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass, and Long-term Visit Pass) returning to Singapore will be issued a 14-day SHN. Persons under SHN must remain in their place of residence at all times.

MOM encourages employers to impose a LOA on all employees returning to Singapore between 14 and 20 March 2020 if they have not been issued with SHN. For more information on LOA, please refer to the corresponding section below.

Travellers with travel history within the last 14 days to Hubei province of Mainland China will be issued QO. For more information on the differences between QO and SHN, please refer to the corresponding section below.

¹ The SHN will not apply to Singapore residents and Long Term Pass holders who use the land and sea crossings with Malaysia, with a travel history within the last 14 days to only Malaysia.

Long Term Pass Holders affected by Malaysia's Movement Control Order

Malaysia's implementation of a Movement Control Order has banned Malaysia citizens from going overseas and non-Malaysia citizens from entering Malaysia between 18 and 31 March 2020.

The Singapore-Malaysia Special Working Committee has agreed that Malaysians with Singapore work permits will continue to be able to work in Singapore, with

appropriate accommodation arrangements. Discussions in the Committee are ongoing.

MOM will provide temporary housing support to help employers who are affected by Malaysia's implementation of a Movement Control Order. For more information on temporary housing support, please refer to the corresponding section below.

Visitors seeking entry into Singapore

From 23 March 2020, 11.59 p.m., all short-term visitors from anywhere in the world will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. Singapore has also ceased port calls for all cruise vessels.

Visitors affected by the above policy and need to visit Singapore due to extenuating reasons may submit the completed [Form 14](#) (Part V is optional) to ICA_nCoV_request@ica.gov.sg, together with the following documents:

- A copy of the passport bio data page
- Any other supporting documents

Visitors already in Singapore

Visitors who are already in Singapore will **not** be affected by the recent policy. You may apply [online](#) if there is a need to extend your stay in Singapore.

From 27 March, all travellers must submit online health declaration before entering Singapore

All travellers—including Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Long Term Pass holders arriving in Singapore from 9 a.m. on Friday, 27 March will have to submit a health declaration online before proceeding with their immigration clearance.

The online health declaration can be done through the [SG Arrival Card \(SGAC\) e-Service site](#).

Residents and Long Term Pass holders who are submitting their health declaration will need to select "Residents" on the SGAC e-Service, after which they will be directed to provide their health and recent travel information, as well as personal and contact details.

Those travelling into Singapore can submit their health declaration up to three days prior to arrival into the country. Travellers who have not submitted their health declaration electronically before arriving in Singapore will be required to do so upon arrival at the checkpoint.

With effect from Friday, the paper-based disembarkation and embarkation card for travellers will also be discontinued.

Obtaining MOM entry approval for Work Pass holders

To better manage the risk of importing the COVID-19, MOM is restricting the entry of pass holders into Singapore. **All employers are strongly urged to defer bringing pass holders into Singapore.**

If you need to extend the validity of the pass holders' in-principle approval (IPA), you can do so:

- Work Permit: Submit your request using [WP Online](#)
- Employment Pass, S Pass, Dependant's Pass or Long Term Visit Pass: [Extend IPA validity request form](#) at least 2 weeks before the IPA expires.

However, if you are unable to defer the pass holders' arrival, you must do the following:

1. Ensure you can fulfil the [additional responsibilities](#) to bring your work pass holders in. If they have dependants who are not issued any work passes, including Letter of Consent (LOC), they must also fulfil their [responsibilities towards their dependants](#).
2. [Request for MOM's entry approval](#) **before** the pass holders can enter Singapore.
3. Wait for MOM's approval **before** arranging for the pass holders to enter Singapore.

Note: For pass holders with Hubei-issued passports or recent travel history to Hubei, please defer their entry into Singapore as far as possible.

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 10 days after the application closes (e.g., for arrivals in Singapore from 17 to 26 March 2020, you can submit the request from 15 March 2020, 12.01 p.m. to 16 March 2020, 12 p.m.).

For IPA holders, you need to wait for them to complete their 14-day SHN before you can get their passes issued.

Important reminder

Employers should inform their employees **not** to make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been obtained from MOM. MOM will continue to take enforcement measures against errant employers or employees, including the revocation of work passes and suspension of work pass privileges.

Leave of Absence

Leave of Absence (LOA)

An LOA is a precautionary measure to prevent the possible transmission of infections. Those on LOA should stay at home, minimise contact with others, and

monitor their health closely. They may leave home briefly to attend to matters, but must return home as soon as possible.

For employees returning between 14 and 20 March 2020

MOM encourages employers to impose a LOA on all employees returning to Singapore between 14 and 20 March 2020 if they have not been issued with SHN. To support this, MOM will allow employers and self-employed persons (SEPs) to claim for the S\$100 daily support for such company-imposed LOA (company-LOA) under the Leave of Absence Support Programme (LOASP).

Leave of Absence Support Programme (LOASP)

MOM will extend LOASP to employers who give additional paid leave to employees who returned to Singapore between 14 and 20 March 2020 to cover company-LOA. SEPs will also be eligible if they have self-imposed LOA for 14 days.

Under the LOASP, eligible employers will be able to apply for the S\$100 daily support per affected employee for the completed duration of company-LOA. Only employees who are Singapore Citizens (SC), Permanent Residents (PR), and Work Pass holders are covered. Eligible employers will also qualify for levy waiver for affected Work Pass holders.

Employers and self-employed SCs and PRs will not be eligible for the LOASP if:

- a. Work was performed remotely during the company-LOA period;
- b. The affected employee was required to use his own annual leave, childcare leave, or other paid leave entitlements for the company-LOA period; or
- c. The affected employee was placed on mandatory SHN upon return to Singapore but the travel did not commence before the specified dates in order to meet the LOASP criteria.

For more information on the eligibility criteria and application process for LOASP, please refer to MOM's press release [here](#).

From 20 March 2020, 11.59 p.m., all travellers who enter Singapore will be issued with a 14-day SHN.

Differences between Quarantine Order (QO) and Stay Home Notice (SHN)

Quarantine Order (QO)

A QO is a legal order issued to individuals under the Infectious Diseases Act and thus have legal force with severe penalties for non-compliance.

A QO is issued to quarantine or isolate an individual who is, or is suspected to be, a carrier of an infectious disease, or a contact of a person confirmed to have an infectious disease. This is with the aim of limiting the spread of the virus in the community. Quarantine usually occurs in the home but can also be served in dedicated Government Quarantine Facilities (GQFs) or hospitals, should the

individual not have suitable accommodation in Singapore.

Stay Home Notice (SHN)

A SHN is a precautionary measure to prevent possible transmission of infections. Those under the SHN must remain in their place of residence at all times for 14 days. The Government will continue to implement surveillance and enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the SHN, so that the well-being of the community is not put at risk.

The authorities will be conducting mandatory checks on Singapore citizens, permanent residents and Long-Term Visit Pass holders who are placed on a 14-day SHN, from the day of return from the countries/regions listed above. Affected individuals will be contacted through multiple platforms including phone calls, WhatsApp or Short Message Service (SMS).

Please note that the authorities will not ask for any financial details during their calls to you. If you receive a call and wish to verify its authenticity, you can call ICA at 6391 6571 (8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, and 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays).

MOM will not hesitate to take enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the requirements of the SHN, including the revocation of Work Passes and withdrawal of Work Pass privileges.

Who will be issued a SHN?

All SCs, PRs and Long Term Pass holders returning to Singapore will be issued a 14-day SHN. Persons under SHN must remain in their place of residence at all times. They will have to provide proof of the place where they will serve the SHN. They should monitor their health closely, and seek medical attention immediately if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.

What should I do if there is no space or spare dormitories within my institution to segregate staff who have returned from countries affected by COVID-19?

There is no need to segregate staff who have returned from affected countries. The SHN is intended to manage potential risks by minimising the time the individual spends at the workplace or educational institution. Instead, employers should monitor the health of those staff, and advise them to maintain good personal hygiene, and to seek medical attention if unwell.

Can family members continue to live with an individual under SHN?

The SHN applies only to persons returning from affected areas listed in the advisory (Note: From Friday, March 20, at 11.59 p.m., the SHN will be extended to all people arriving from overseas).

Family members may continue to live with an individual under SHN. However, they should observe good personal hygiene practices. If the individual becomes unwell, he/she should avoid contact with his/her family members and seek medical attention immediately.

For more information on SHN, visit go.gov.sg/govsg-shn.

Temporary housing support for employers affected by Malaysia's Movement Control Order

With the implementation of a Movement Control Order which bans Malaysia citizens from going overseas and non-Malaysia citizens from entering Malaysia between 18 and 31 March 2020, local employers are making efforts at short notice to house in Singapore affected workers who commute across the Singapore—Malaysia border frequently.

To help employers defray the additional costs of housing affected workers in short-term housing, eligible employers can apply for temporary housing support of S\$50 per affected worker per night, capped at 14 nights to cover the **extra housing costs** incurred. Affected workers refer to workers who:

- a. Are Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents or Work Pass holders who are Malaysia citizens;
- b. Reside in Malaysia and commute to Singapore; and
- c. Are housed in Singapore in hotels, dormitories or rented accommodation between 18 and 31 March 2020.

As part of business continuity planning, employers should continue to look for housing options on a more sustainable basis to house their Malaysia workers.

Employers who wish to apply for the temporary housing support can submit their applications on the MOM website from 1 April 2020. Conditions will include ensuring that their employees are in employment between 18 and 31 March 2020. Applications should only be submitted **after** the affected worker has completed his/her stay in the short-term housing. More details will be released on the MOM website in due course.

Contact

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



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