



## 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.

#### Singapore

##### **Entry approval requirement for employers with work pass holders with travel history to Daegu city and Cheongdo county**

Ministry of Manpower | 25 February 2020

With effect from 26 February 2020, 2359 hours, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will require all work pass holders (including dependants) with travel history to Daegu city and Cheongdo county 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. This requirement applies to:

- Existing work pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- 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). Employers will be required to declare to MOM that they have arranged for suitable premises to house these returning employees for the duration of their SHN when applying for entry approval.

Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#) which will be available from 26 February 2020, 0800 hours. 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.

### More information

#### **Advisory for employers and employees travelling to and from affected areas in response to increase in cases of COVID-19**

Ministry of Manpower | Updated as of 25 February 2020

The actions to be taken by employers who wish to bring their foreign employees from affected areas into Singapore have been updated to include Daegu city and Cheongdo county. These areas now refer to:

- Mainland China (outside Hubei)
- Daegu city, Republic of Korea
- Cheongdo county, Republic of Korea

If your foreign employees have travelled to any of the areas above within the last 14 days and are arriving in Singapore from 26 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](#).

### More information

#### **Additional precautionary measures in response to escalating situation in Daegu and Cheongdo**

Ministry of Health | 25 February 2020

From 26 February 2020, 2359 hours, all new visitors with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.

The following returning groups will be issued with a Stay-Home Notice (SHN):

- a. Residents (Singaporean Citizens and Permanent Residents) with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days; and
- b. Long-term pass holders (including work passes and permits, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass, and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days.

Under the SHN, they will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for a 14-day period after returning to Singapore.



[More information](#)

### **Temporary scheme to help manufacturing and services sectors manage manpower needs**

Ministry of Manpower | 25 February 2020

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has partnered with the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) to introduce a temporary scheme to help companies in the manufacturing and services sectors better manage their manpower needs in view of the COVID-19 situation.

For a period of six months starting from 2 March 2020, companies in these sectors will be allowed to hire existing PRC Work Permit holders (WPH) who are in Singapore, with the agreement of their current employers. Currently, these companies can only hire PRC WPHs after they have exited Singapore. The scheme will give companies more flexibility to manage their manpower needs.



[More information](#)

## **South Korea**

### **Announcement on automatic extension of stay for registered aliens and F-4 residents**

Korea Immigration Service | 24 February 2020

Periods of stay for registered aliens and Overseas Korean Residents (F-4), as described below, are automatically extended to 30 April 2020 to stem the spread of COVID-19 by minimising unessential visits to Immigration offices amid growing concerns over sustained community spread of the virus.

#### **Eligibility**

- Registered aliens and Overseas Korean Residents (F-4) whose period of stay is due to expire between 24 February and 29 April 2020; and
- Who are legally staying in the Republic of Korea at the time of enforcement.

Those whose period of stay expires on 22 February 2020 (Saturday) or 23 February 2020 (Sunday) are also included in the measure.

However, those who have already applied for permission to extend period of stay either by visit or online are excluded from the measure (normal period of stay to be granted based on review criteria). Non-Professional (E-9), Maritime Crew (E-10), and those whose whereabouts are unknown are also excluded.



[More information](#)

## Taiwan

### CECC raises travel notice level for South Korea to Level 3

Taiwan Centres for Disease Control | 24 February 2020

The Central Epidemic Command Centre (CECC) has raised its travel notice level to Level 3: Warning, and advises the public to avoid all non-essential travel to South Korea.

In addition, the CECC announced that starting from 25 February 2020, foreign nationals entering Taiwan from South Korea must undergo a 14-day period of home quarantine.

Starting from 25 February 2020 until the end of 26 February 2020, Taiwanese nationals entering Taiwan from South Korea must also conduct a 14-day period of self-health management; and starting from 27 February 2020, Taiwanese nationals entering Taiwan from South Korea must undergo a 14-day period of home quarantine.



[More information](#)

## Contact

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



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