



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.

Note: If you have trouble accessing any of the links below, please try to copy and paste them directly into your browser.

Singapore

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) cancels Singaporean's passport for breaching Stay-Home Notice (SHN)

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority | 29 March 2020

The ICA has cancelled the passport of a Singapore Citizen for breaching the SHN requirements. The case has also been referred to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for investigation.

ICA said that it will not hesitate to take strong enforcement action against those who fail to comply with SHN requirements. Besides cancellation of their immigration facilities, they can also be prosecuted under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations, and face a fine of up to S\$10,000, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

ICA reminds all travellers to ensure that they submit complete and accurate travel declarations. From 27 March 2020, all travellers arriving in Singapore, including Singapore residents, must submit a health and travel declaration before proceeding with immigration clearance. Travellers will be required to provide their health status and recent travel history, as well as personal particulars and contact details. Anyone who makes a false or misleading declaration will be liable to prosecution under the Infectious Diseases Act. The penalty for providing false or misleading information is a fine of up to S\$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to six months. For subsequent offence(s), the penalty is a fine up to S\$20,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 12 months. For non-Singaporeans, other administrative actions, such as revocation of, or shortening the validity of permits and passes to remain in Singapore, may also be taken.



More information

Entry approval required for all Long-Term Pass holders

Immigration & Checkpoints Authority | 28 March 2020

The ICA and the Ministry of Education (MOE) will implement additional precautionary measures for all Long-Term Pass (LTP) holders who are entering or returning to Singapore. These include holders of the Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP), the Student's Pass (STP), as well as those who have been granted In-Principle Approval (IPA) for a LTP. These measures will come into effect from 29 March 2020, 11.59 p.m.

Entry approval for holders of LTVPs and STPs issued by ICA

All LTVP holders¹, as well as those who have been granted IPA for LTVP, who are planning to enter or return to Singapore, must obtain ICA's permission before they commence their journey to Singapore. They can do so by submitting their application for entry to ICA_nCoV_request@ica.gov.sg.

All existing STP holders, and those who have been granted IPA for STP, who are planning to enter or return to Singapore must obtain MOE's permission before they commence their journey to Singapore. MOE will take into consideration the course in which the student is enrolled, and prioritise entry approval for those studying in publicly-funded Institutes of Higher Learning. STP holders, and those who have been granted IPA for STP, should submit their application to their respective educational institution, which will then forward their application to MOE.

If permission is granted, applicants will be issued an approval letter of entry by ICA for LTVP holders, or by MOE for STP holders, which is valid for two weeks. They must produce this approval letter of entry to airline staff upon check-in at

the departure airport, and to the immigration officer at the checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

Applicants should not make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been given by ICA/MOE. If they arrive in Singapore without the approval letter of entry from ICA/MOE, ICA will not allow them to clear immigration, and will require them to fly out of Singapore within 48 hours, at their own cost. If they fail to comply, ICA will cancel their pass or rescind their IPA.

Entry approval for Ministry of Manpower (MOM)'s Work Pass Holders

Currently, the MOM has been requiring all new and existing Work Pass holders² (including dependants³) to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey to Singapore. The entry approval requirement applies to:

- a. Existing Work Pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- b. Those who have been granted IPA for a Work Pass, who have yet to enter Singapore.

Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#). Work Pass holders who arrive in Singapore without a valid entry approval will not be allowed to clear immigration, and will be asked to fly out of Singapore within 48 hours, at their own cost.

Work Pass holders whose application for entry approval has been rejected should not enter or return to Singapore yet. They should apply again for the required approval. Those who do not comply and fly to Singapore nevertheless will have their Work Pass revoked and will be barred from future employment in Singapore.

For more information on the actions to be taken by employers to bring pass holders (Work Pass holders and their dependants) from overseas into Singapore, please refer to the corresponding section on the [MOM website](#).

¹ LTVPs are also issued by MOM to common-law spouses, step-children, handicapped children or parents of an Employment Pass or S Pass holder. MOM-issued LTVP holders will have to obtain MOM's approval for entry.

² Holders of LTVP issued by ICA, who also have a Letter of Consent (LOC) or Pre-Approved Letter of Consent (PLOC) issued by MOM, should obtain ICA's entry approval.

³ Dependant's Pass holders and MOM-issued LTVP holders.



More information

South Korea

South Korea to enforce mandatory two-week quarantine for all entrants from overseas

Yonhap News Agency | 29 March 2020

South Korea will enforce a two-week mandatory quarantine for all entrants from

overseas starting 1 April 2020, government officials said Sunday.

All entrants to the country, regardless of nationality, will be required to stay in quarantine starting 1 April 2020. Visitors without local addresses here should stay in government-designated facilities at their own expense.

Exceptions will be applied to those coming to South Korea for public purposes and have specific visas such as diplomatic or public affairs visas.



More information

Thailand

Travel advisory for travellers to Thailand

The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand | 26 March 2020

Following the declaration of state of emergency in Thailand on 25 March 2020, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand has issued the following travel advisory for travellers to Thailand:

Passengers or persons shall be permitted to enter Thailand through international airport **only** if they fall under one of the following categories:

- a. Persons in a situation or persons exempted by the Prime Minister or Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under certain conditions and prescribed time periods
- b. Carriers of necessary cargoes, but prompt exit is required after the mission is completed
- c. Pilots-in-command, and crew members of the flight entering Thailand with clear schedule to depart
- d. Persons on diplomatic or consular mission, or under International Organisations, representatives of the government performing their duties in Thailand or other persons or international agencies with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and their families. In this case, a certificate of entry to the Kingdom issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required.
- e. Non-Thai nationals with work permit or who have been granted permission from Thai government agencies to work in Thailand
- f. Thai nationals with certificate of entry to the Kingdom issued by the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate in their country of residence certifying that they are Thais returning to Thailand, and a Fit to Fly Health Certificate.

Persons in (d) and (e) must have a Fit to Fly Health Certificate issued no more than 72 hours before travelling.

Passengers or persons permitted to enter Thailand shall strictly comply with disease prevention measures imposed by the government. The immigration officers have the power to deny the entry of Non-Thai nationals who have tested positive for COVID-19, are under suspicion of being infected, or refuse to undergo such a test.

Transit travellers

From now till midnight on 31 March 2020, Thailand local time, an exemption is given to Non-Thai passengers transiting through Thailand to a third country with a transit time of no more than 24 hours. Such transit passengers are required to present a Fit to Fly Health Certificate upon check in at the airport of departure to Thailand and during transit formalities in Thailand. To view the full list of special exemptions for transit travellers, please click [here](#).



More information

Contact

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



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