



Immigration news alerts

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

2019 Novel Coronavirus (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.

Australia

Novel coronavirus and Australian visas

Department of Home Affairs | 1 February 2020

Australia will deny entry to anyone who has left or transited mainland China from 1 February, with the exception of:

- Australian citizens
- Permanent residents
- Immediate family members of Australian citizens and permanent residents including spouses, minor dependents and legal guardians

Limited exemptions also exist for airline and maritime crew, where they have taken appropriate precautionary measures. These enhanced public safety

measures will apply to those seeking to enter Australia as well as those seeking to transit through Australia en route to another country.

Temporary visa holders who are ineligible for entry into Australia under these measures will have their visa cancelled. Arrangements will be made to reinstate visas as appropriate following the lifting of these enhanced border control measures. As the Prime Minister announced, these measures are temporary.



More information

Hong Kong

Immigration Department service arrangement

HKSAR Government Press Releases | 2 February 2020

The Immigration Department announced the provision of limited public services from 3-9 February 2020. For detailed opening hours of individual offices, please refer to 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 Government's separate announcement, will maintain normal operations. And the 1868 hotline will continue to operate as normal to provide practicable assistance for Hong Kong residents in distress outside Hong Kong.

These measures will be implemented tentatively until 9 February 2020, and will be reviewed according to the situation.



More information

India

India temporarily suspends e-visa facility for Chinese and foreigners residing in China

The Economic Times | 2 February 2020

India on Sunday temporarily suspended e-visa facility for Chinese travellers and foreigners residing in China in view of the coronavirus outbreak. This applies to holders of Chinese passports and applicants of other nationalities residing in the People's Republic of China. Holders of already issued e-visas may note that these are no longer valid.

All those who have a compelling reason to visit India may contact the Embassy of India in Beijing or the Indian consulates in Shanghai or Guangzhou, as well as the Indian Visa Application Centres in these cities.



More information

Philippines

BI, airlines implement expanded travel ban amid nCoV jitters

Inquirer | 2 February 2020

Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Jaime Morente announced that he has ordered the implementation of the expanded travel ban for foreigners coming from China and its Special Administrative Regions. All foreign nationals, regardless of their nationality, who will be coming from China and its Special Administrative Regions shall be turned back and not allowed to enter the Philippines.

However, Filipino nationals and Philippine permanent resident visa holders will be allowed to enter “subject to a 14 day quarantine, to be implemented by the Bureau of Quarantine”.



[More information](#)

Singapore

Joint statement by Ministry of National Development, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Manpower on persons placed on home quarantined orders and leave of absence

Ministry of Manpower | 3 February 2020

The Government has received feedback of landlords evicting tenants who are placed on leave of absence (LOA) or Home Quarantine Orders (HQO), and based on their nationality. Guidelines are available for landlords to adopt should they have a tenant who is on home quarantine or LOA. There is no need for landlords to evict persons who are serving their HQO or LOA. Landlords found to have irresponsibly evicted their residents may face restrictions and even be barred from renting out their flats to foreign work pass holders in future.



[More information](#)

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka suspends visa on arrival for Chinese citizens after first case of coronavirus

The Hindu | 28 January 2020

Sri Lanka suspended its policy of granting visa on arrival for Chinese travellers on Tuesday, a day after the health authorities detected the country's first coronavirus infection. Travellers from China must apply for visa via the online portal, the authorities said.



[More information](#)

Contact

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



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