



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.

China

Response to COVID-19 outbreak *(Translated from Chinese)*

The State Council of the People's Republic of China | 2 March 2020

Foreigners working in China in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship and scientific research during the epidemic will have their visa and residence permits automatically extended for two months if their certificates expire during the period. No extension procedure is required, and they can legally stay in China or leave the country during the extended period.

Foreigners who need to come to China for urgent reasons such as investment, a business start-up or trade can apply at their port of entry for a visa or temporary entry permit with invitation letters.

Differentiated services will be offered according to the local epidemic situation. Immigration authorities will immediately resume counter service in low-risk areas, gradually resume counter service in medium-risk areas, and offer emergency reservation services to accept and approve applications for urgent cases in high-risk areas.



[More information](#)

Indonesia

Indonesia curbs entry of foreign visitors from Iran, Italy and South Korea

Channel NewsAsia | 5 March 2020

Indonesia will ban entry and transit of foreign visitors who have spent 14 days in cities hit by coronavirus outbreaks in Iran, Italy and South Korea, starting 8 March 2020, the country's foreign minister said.

Travellers coming from other places in the three countries will need to provide a certificate issued by health authorities to declare that they are healthy. Indonesians coming home from the three countries, especially those who had travelled to outbreak-hit areas, will also face an extra health examination.



[More information](#)

Vietnam

COVID-19: Who gets quarantined in Vietnam?

VnExpress | 3 March 2020

Travellers entering Vietnam from mainland China, Italy, Iran, and South Korea have to be quarantined for at least 14 days. Local authorities at the port of entry will decide where a person will be quarantined and kept under medical observation.

If a person develops any of the symptoms associated with the novel coronavirus infection, her/his body fluids will be tested and she/he will be moved to a hospital for further isolation and treatment in case test results are positive for the virus.

During their quarantine period, the person will be fed three meals a day and provided with other essential items needed for their daily life and routines.

Once doctors certify that the quarantined persons are free of the virus, they will be placed under additional monitoring at home or medical camps until doctors decide they can be discharged.



[More information](#)

Vietnam to suspend visa-free travel for Italians over coronavirus concerns

Reuters | 2 March 2020

Vietnam will temporarily suspend visa-free travel for Italians from Tuesday due to concerns about the coronavirus, the government said. "The government of Vietnam has decided to temporarily suspend visa exemption for citizens from Italy from 3 March 2020 amid fast rising COVID-19 infections in the European country," the government said in a news release on Monday.

Italy is one of 13 countries for which Vietnam has a unilateral visa exemption program that provides for a stay not exceeding 15 days, according to the statement.

Vietnam had said on Friday it would suspend visa-free travel for South Koreans starting on 29 February 2020 amid concerns about the spread of the coronavirus.



[More information](#)

Contact

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



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