

# COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Sunday March 29, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dubai Free Zones Council has launched an economic stimulus package that aims at contributing to the strengthening of Dubai’s businesses. The package will postpone certain rent payments for a period of 6 months, allow businesses to make installment payments, refund security deposits, cancel fines for both companies and individuals, and permit temporary contracts that allow the free movement of labor between companies operating in the free zone for the remainder of the year. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Dubai Future Foundation emphasized the Foundation’s role in leveraging its initiatives, partnerships and in-house talent to find innovative and effective solutions to support the UAE’s efforts against the spread of the coronavirus. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Dubai has launched a helpline for consumers to report price hikes. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Sharjah Asset Management has announced a three-month exemption of rents for tenants in Souq Al Haraj and Souq Al Jubail in response to the economic hardships caused by the coronavirus. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Dubai-based charity organizations have donated a total of AED 52 million to support the UAE’s efforts to combat the coronavirus. The donations support healthcare and educational institutions. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On March 28, the UAE saw 63 new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 468 total confirmed cases. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>A coronavirus testing center is now open in Sheikh Zayed Sports City. The testing center operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every weekday and provides services to about 600 people every day. The center can complete a test within 5 minutes and sends results through SMS or the SEHA application. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The ‘National Disinfection Programme’ has been extended until April 4. Individuals are highly discouraged from leaving their homes past 8 p.m. each night until 6 a.m. each morning. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways announced that it has suspended all flights from or to Abu Dhabi for an initial period of two weeks. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>UAE will be arranging flights home for UAE citizens who are in the United States and wish to return to the UAE. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new list of fines, 15 in total, have been issued for violators of coronavirus prevention rules. The most severe fines include an AED 50,000 fine for not complying with home quarantine instructions, violating closures of public places (e.g. beaches) or refusing to take prescribed medicine. Individuals may also be fined AED 10,000 for organizing social gatherings, meetings or public celebrations. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Effective Sunday March 29 and for a period of two weeks, a maximum of 30 percent of the workforce of private entities are permitted to be physically in the office while others whose jobs do not necessitate physical presence should be working from home. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banks, financial institutions and exchange houses will be permitted to implement work from home arrangements, but must maintain at least 30% of those working in critical positions in the office. Banks and exchange houses are entitled to reduce working hours or temporarily closing branches so long as services to the public are not interrupted. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority will put on hold the suspension of mobile services of those who have expired supporting documents and Emirates ID. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority has extended the validity of all wireless authorizations of hospitals and medical centers regardless of their expiry date. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Ministry of Interior has announced that starting Sunday March 29, motorists whose driver's license expire over the next three months may renew their driver's license using smart applications without the need for an eye exam settling unpaid fines or black points. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources will activate the Remote Work System for all ministries, authorities, and federal institutions effective March 29, 2020 for a renewable period of two weeks. Vital sectors such as energy, telecommunications, health, education and others are barred from this decision. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The National Media Council has decided to allow a maximum of 30 percent of the workforce for each non-governmental media outlet to work across the day during the disinfection period (March 26 – 29). <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management has launched a website for people to request permission to leave their homes during the National Sterilisation Program <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>