

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Monday April 27, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dubai Airport Freezone Authority has launched a set of economic incentive packages to support companies based in the free zone in order to ensure business continuity across various sectors. The incentive package includes postponed lease payments for up to 3 months and facilitating financial payments into easier monthly installments. (Link) The Dubai International Financial Center has announced on Sunday a new Presidential Directive which seeks to help limit the impact on the new coronavirus. The new directive provides greater flexibility to DIFC-based employers and increased protection to employees. (Link) Dubai Future Foundation issues its 5th report on life after the coronavirus. The report is part of a series that aims to tackle the different financial challenges that the UAE and the Arab world will face once the pandemic subsides. (Link) Private sector companies in Dubai are continuing to show their commitment to supporting the Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19. Their contributions have ranged from financial to providing logistical aid including medical, electronic and other crucial supplies. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 26, the UAE saw 536 new cases (0.75% increase from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 10,349 total confirmed cases. (Link) The Abu Dhabi Ministry of Health and Prevention have launched a new application named ALHOSN UAE for smart phones. This new application will be an official digital platform for COVID-19 tests in the UAE. (Link) Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority has developed an in-house disinfection tunnel for use by its employees, customers and residents in the hi-tech park. (Link) Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services has launched a mobile laboratory unit that allows for coronavirus tests to be conducted by professionals closer to home. This service is primarily intended to serve senior citizens and people of determination. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Etihad Airways is planning to gradually resume passenger flights on May 16. (Link) Emirates Airlines has announced a limited number of flights to Frankfurt, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Lagos, London, Madrid, Manila and Tunis starting next week. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nakheel Mall, Ibn Battuta Mall and Dragon Mart prepare for reopening. Their reopening strategy includes coronavirus tests for all staff, a 30 percent increase in security and an extensive pre-opening disinfection program. (Link) Taraweeh is to be broadcast live from Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque on official television channels and radio stations in the country throughout the holy month of Ramadan. (Link) Timing for the national disinfection program has been reduced, now allowing individuals to leave their homes between 6 am and 10 pm each day. (Link)