

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Tuesday April 14, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Hamra Real Estate is cutting cooling charges by up to 20 percent for its tenants in the Bayti villas, the Royal Breeze Residences, the Marina Apartments, the Golf Apartments and Bab al Bahr Residences. (Link) The Emirates Red Crescent has launched the “Among your family” initiative to ease the burdens on housing tenants during the current crisis. (Link) A senior judge has warned UAE companies that they must continue to pay staff their housing allowance if they are made redundant. The ruling is intended to prevent tenants facing an uncertain financial future from being evicted by their landlords. (Link) The UAE’s Central Bank is urging banks to support private sector corporates, small to medium enterprises and individuals to mitigate the negative economic effect of the coronavirus. (Link) UAE’s Ministry of Economy has reduced fees for 94 services to individuals and companies. The fee reductions are wide ranging but particularly relate to innovation, general business activities, investment, production, trade and import and export. (Link) Emirates Islamic has contributed AED 10 million to the ‘Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19’. The fund aims to support the effort to mitigate the health, economic and social challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 13, the UAE saw 398 new cases (2.8% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 4,521 total confirmed cases. (Link) HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has launched the National Home Testing Program for People of Determination to ensure that all segments of society have adequate access to testing. (Link) Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center has deployed a specialized team as part of an effort to disinfect targeted shopping centers across Abu Dhabi. (Link) The UAE has open various drive-through testing centers across the country, including in Ajman, Sharjah, Umm Al Qaiwain, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah. (Link) (Link) (Link) (Link) (Link) Abu Dhabi police distribute facemasks and personal protective supplies in certain areas, including Musaffah, Al Mafraq and Al Shawamekh, as part of the “For Your Safety” Campaign. (Link) Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA), has announced the opening of 13 additional drive-through coronavirus testing facilities. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emirates is planning to operate passenger services to Jakarta, Manila, Taipei, Chicago, Tunis, Algiers and Kabul in addition to the already commenced operation to London and Frankfurt. (Link)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai's Airport show, the world's largest annual airport industry business to business platform, has been postponed to October 2020. (Link) • Etihad Airways has announced additional special passenger flights. These new flights will be outbound only from Abu Dhabi to Brussels, Dublin, London, Tokyo and Zurich. (Link) • Emirates Airlines is to begin operating some passenger flights from Dubai Airport Terminal 3. Emirates Airlines is asking prospective passengers to contact Emirates directly for more information. (Link) • FlyDubai has operated 23 repatriation flights carrying more than 2,800 passengers from the UAE between March 19 and April 8, 2020. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Abu Dhabi Bank has joined forces with Emirates Red Crescent to provide meals for frontline health professionals fighting the coronavirus. (Link) • Abu Dhabi's Judicial Department has completed 664 notary public attestations remotely. (Link) • The relevant authorities have referred 129 people to the Attorney-General for failing to abide by the quarantine and isolation measures implemented by various bodies to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Those who fail to comply with home quarantine orders may face fines and/or jail time. (Link) • The UAE announces the suspension of prayers in all places of worship until further notice. (Link)