

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Tuesday April 07, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UAE's Central Bank has cut demand deposit reserve requirements by 50% from 14% to 7% and has increased its stimulus package to AED 256 billion in an effort to curtail the negative impacts of the coronavirus on the economy. (Link) Ras Al Khaimah's Tourism Development Authority has announced support measures for the tourism industry. The support measures, which are planned to be effective in mid-April, include a 6 month waiver of all touristic licenses, a complete exemption of tourism licensing fees for the second and third quarter, and others. (Link) Emaar Properties has donated AED 100 million to 'Social Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19' in support of humanitarian efforts in alleviating the impact of the pandemic. (Link) Abu Dhabi's Chamber of commerce contributes AED 20 million to the 'Together We Are Good' programme. (Link) UAE's Central Bank has issued joint guidance for banks and finance companies on the application of International Financial Reporting Standard 9 during the coronavirus pandemic. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 4, the UAE saw 277 new cases (5.7% decrease) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 2,076 total confirmed cases. (Link) Researchers at Khalifa University's Healthcare Engineering Innovation Centre are assisting in the development of emergency ventilators. The researchers have developed a prototype and are now engineering the production plant to be able to produce the ventilator at scale. (Link) The UAE has sent a plane carrying approximately 10 tons of medical supplies to Italy to assist in their fight against the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) The National Programme for Happiness and Wellbeing has launched a national campaign for mental support in an effort to help residents to overcome the psychological impact of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 50 experts in the fields of psychology, mental and social support and life skills are participating in the initiative. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emirates has confirmed its readiness to fly foreign nationals to their home countries so long as certain health and safety conditions are met. (Link) Emirates Airlines has brought back to Dubai the first batch of UAE citizens stranded abroad due to the current pandemic. (Link) Etihad Airways will partner with an Australian company, Elenium Automation, to trial a new technology which will allow self-service devices at airports to be used to help identify travelers with medical conditions, potentially including the early stages of the coronavirus. (Link) The UAE and the United Kingdom have signed a memorandum of understanding on transit flights for British nationals during the coronavirus outbreak. The understanding states that

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	<p>the two countries are ready to facilitate the movement of nationals between the each other during emergencies. (Link)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai Airports has been working with airlines, embassies and government authorities to provide solutions for passengers who have been stranded in Dubai’s international airport. Passengers awaiting their repatriation flights are being provided with rooms and meals in hotels inside of Dubai’s international airport. (Link) • Etihad Airways is now allowing a select number of outbound flights to return individuals to their home country. Currently flights are available to Seoul, Singapore, Manila and Jakarta. (Link)
<p>Daily Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abu Dhabi announces revised timings for the National Sterilization Program. In Abu Dhabi, the National Sterilization Program will begin from 8pm to 6am in residential areas and from 6pm to 6am in industrial zones and workers accommodations. (Link) • Emirates Post has reduced its working hours on a temporary basis at all of its Dubai-based Customer Happiness Centers. Their new hours of operations will be from 9 am to 2 pm on weekdays. However, their delivery and courier services will operate as normal. (Link) • Etihad Guest has launched a campaign to encourage members to donate their Etihad Guest Miles to support the prevention and response efforts in refugee communities affected by the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has extended the closure of commercial centers, shopping malls, cinemas, electronic game halls and other entertainment destinations until further notice. (Link) • The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has launched the ‘Early Leave’ initiative. The initiative allows residents to take their annual leave early in order to allow them to travel home while repatriation flights are still available. (Link) • Dubai Economy has imposed fines on 14 merchants for inflating the price of face masks. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport has announced that free bus services will be offered to employees in the medical sector to transport them between their home and place of work within Abu Dhabi. (Link)