

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Thursday April 09, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), the financial services regulator of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) has announced certain economic relief measures to its licensees. The measures include providing additional time for completing applications for authorization and a 50% reduction in application fees. (Link)• HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman, has announced a directive that will provide economic support to various sectors including foreign trade, customs, tourism and real estate. (Link)• The UAE Cabinet has adopted a resolution to grant paid leave to select categories of employees of the Federal Government. The resolution states that married employees may take fully paid leave to take care of their children below the age of 16. (Link)• Fujairah Welfare Association has donated AED 2 million to the Fund of UAE: Homeland of Humanity in support for the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. (Link)• 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)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 8, the UAE saw 300 new cases (5.6% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 2,659 total confirmed cases. (Link)• Abu Dhabi's Department of Health has launched new features on its website that allows people to track the coronavirus in real time. (Link)• A Dubai based company is using 3D printing technology to produce low-cost face shields to help front line medical workers during the coronavirus outbreak. The face shields are around AED 15. (Link)• The UAE has conducted a record number of coronavirus tests in a short time, reaching 539,195 administered tests nationwide as of April 7. (Link)• The UAE Customs Sector has successfully implemented an integrated strategy to cope with the coronavirus pandemic. The strategy aims to protect society and the customs workforce in border ports and key centers across the country. (Link)• Dubai's first drive-through coronavirus test center has opened up at Al Nasr Club. Bookings must be made in advance to avoid crowding. Two additional centers are expected to open in Al Khawaneej and Port Rashid. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Etihad Airways has announced that will be providing special flights from Abu Dhabi to Melbourne and Amsterdam over the next two weeks to help citizens of Australia and the Netherlands to return home. (Link)• Emirates SkyCargo has repurposed a number of passenger airplanes to carry cargo. Emirates SkyCargo has operated 160 flights in one week and is anticipating more as demand continues to rise. (Link)

Category	Recent Developments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FlyDubai has begun selling tickets for flights to India and Pakistan, starting from next week to repatriate people stranded in the UAE. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai Cares has launched a nationwide fundraising campaign that aims to tackle the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the education of children and youth in the UAE. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi government has asked supermarkets and pharmacies to stay open until midnight and 24/7 if possible to avoid crowding. (Link) • The UAE Cabinet has approved the formation of the “Supreme National Committee for Volunteerism in Crises” that aims to create an integrated and sustainable national volunteering system. (Link) • Dubai’s waterfront market has reopened with a range of precautionary measures being taken to ensure health and safety is maintained. (Link) • Abu Dhabi’s Department of Health has given approval to most pharmacies to begin home delivery of medicine. Individuals may now reach out directly to pharmacies to have their medicine delivered. (Link) • Dubai Health Authority has announced that it has expanded the scope of its medicine home delivery service to now cover the entire UAE. (Link) • Image Nation Abu Dhabi has released the documentary TV series, “History of the Emirates” and a virtual reality educational application free of charge. The series is available to watch on historyoftheemirates.com. (Link)