

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Wednesday April 08, 2020

| Category | Recent Developments |
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| 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 283 new cases (2.1% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 2,359 total confirmed cases. (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) 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"> 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) FlyDubai has begun selling tickets for flights to India and Pakistan, starting from next week to repatriate people stranded in the UAE. (Link) |

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| | <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) |
| Daily Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • 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) |