

# COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Saturday March 28, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharjah Asset Management has announced a three-month exemption of rents for tenants in Souq Al Haraj and Souq Al Jubail in response to the economic hardships caused by the coronavirus. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Dubai-based charity organizations have donated a total of AED 52 million to support the UAE's efforts to combat the coronavirus. The donations support healthcare and educational institutions. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Federal Cabinet has approved a resolution to set up a committee that will address the negative impact of the coronavirus on the UAE's national economy. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>DMCC Announces support package for businesses to boost the UAE economy. The package will include a range of discounts and waivers. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Nakheel pledges AED 230 million economic relief package for customers. The package includes free rental periods for retail and hospitality partners who operate within Nakheel malls. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On March 27, the UAE saw 72 new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 405 total confirmed cases. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Ministry of Health Prevention and the Ministry of Interior have announced the implementation of a 'National Disinfection Programme', which will aim to completely sterilize all public utilities and public transportation over this weekend. Individuals are discouraged from going out past 8 p.m. each night until 6 a.m. each morning until Sunday March 29. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways announced that it has suspended all flights from or to Abu Dhabi for an initial period of two weeks. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>UAE will be arranging flights home for UAE citizens who are in the United States and wish to return to the UAE. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective Sunday March 29 and for a period of two weeks, a maximum of 30 percent of the workforce of private entities are permitted to be physically in the office while others whose jobs do not necessitate physical presence should be working from home. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Banks, financial institutions and exchange houses will be permitted to implement work from home arrangements, but must maintain at least 30% of those working in critical positions in the office. Banks and exchange houses are entitled to reduce working hours or temporarily closing branches so long as services to the public are not interrupted. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority will put on hold the suspension of mobile services of those who have expired supporting documents and Emirates ID. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority has extended the validity of all wireless authorizations of hospitals and medical centers regardless of their expiry date. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Ministry of Interior has announced that starting Sunday March 29, motorists whose driver's license expire over the next three months may renew their driver's license using</li> </ul>

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	<p>smart applications without the need for an eye exam settling unpaid fines or black points. <a href="#">(Link)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources will activate the Remote Work System for all ministries, authorities, and federal institutions effective March 29, 2020 for a renewable period of two weeks. Vital sectors such as energy, telecommunications, health, education and others are barred from this decision. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The National Media Council has decided to allow a maximum of 30 percent of the workforce for each non-governmental media outlet to work across the day during the disinfection period (March 26 – 29). <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai’s Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management has launched a website for people to request permission to leave their homes during the National Sterilisation Program <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>