

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Tuesday April 21, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Central Bank has stated that UAE Banks have availed 30 percent of the AED 50 billion Target Economic Support Scheme. The scheme was launched on March 15 to help individuals, small to medium companies and other private businesses impacted by the current coronavirus. (Link)• A survey has found that the UAE has launched over 100 economic incentives over 45 days. These incentives include providing bank facilities to various economic sectors, postponing dues and others. (Link)• The Mohammed bin Rashid Humanitarian and Charity Establishment announced dedicating AED 20 million to support the '10 million meals' campaign that aims to provide food assistance for coronavirus-hit communities in the UAE. (Link)• DP World has announced the launch of a new online marketplace for Ramadan bazaars to support local artisans and small businesses in selling their products during the Holy Month of Ramadan. (Link)• The UAE's Central Bank has announced that customers affected by the coronavirus will not be required to pay installments, including principal and interest amounts due, during the agreed deferred period with banks. These amounts however will be owed at a later date. (Link)• Dubai's Silicon Oasis offers incentives and exemption packages for business partners and residents. The incentives will include rent waivers and the exemption of late payment fines until August 31, 2020. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 19, the UAE saw 484 new cases (1.04% increase from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 7,265 total confirmed cases. (Link)• Government teams along with volunteers are working around the clock to secure the safety and health of the community under the 'Your City Needs You' campaign, part of the 'Day for Dubai' app. The campaign consolidates the efforts of many humanitarian organizations and as of today has attracted 12,230 volunteers from 40 nationalities. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Department of Health has added new features to its Istijaba' e-system database, which facilitate connectivity between the public and the private healthcare sectors to identify requirements and manage resources. (Link)• Khalifa University of Science and Technology researchers have developed a mathematical model of the highly infectious coronavirus. This model should provide valuable information to non-experts and policymakers to understand what to expect as the disease spreads. (Link)• A 3D printing company located at Sharjah's Research Technology and Innovation Park has ramped up production of 3D-printed face masks, including manufacturing face shields that provide wider 180-degree protection against the coronavirus. (Link)• Around 75 percent of Dubai's districts have been disinfected by the Civil Defence. (Link)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UAE has maintained its global leadership in maximizing coronavirus testing in terms of the number of tests per 1 million people. According to statistics from the Worldometer, the UAE has performed over 77,500 tests per million people. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Arabia announced that it will operate new repatriation flights from four cities in India to Sharjah carrying UAE nationals back home. (Link) The UAE continues to repatriate Emirati citizens and citizens of brotherly and friendly countries. (Link) The UAE has evacuated 11 foreign nationals from the Yemeni island of Socotra. The evacuated tourists have landed in the UAE where they will receive necessary healthcare before heading to their home countries. (Link) Etihad Airways plans to operate a reduced network of scheduled passenger flights from May 1 to June 30 with an aim to gradually returning to fuller schedule as the coronavirus situation improves. (Link) Emirates Airlines has added additional flights from Dubai to Manila next week to help repatriate more individuals from the UAE. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commercial Compliance and Consumer Protection sector in Dubai Economy has imposed fines on seven traders, including three pharmacies in Warsan, Al Qusais and Al Jaddaf for tampering with the prices of face masks. (Link) The UAE Food Bank has launched the “10 million meals” campaign, the nation’s largest food distribution drive to support low-income families and individuals affected by the coronavirus outbreak. (Link) Dubai’s Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management extends round-the-clock sterilization program for an additional week. (Link) Dubai has reduced the number of permits it is issuing that allow individuals to leave their homes. Dubai Police have stated that individuals are permitted to leave their homes to buy groceries and visit the pharmacy once every three days. (Link) Dubai has extended the closure of restaurants, hotels and events until further notice. (Link) Activities of the national campaign “UAE Volunteers” has commenced. The national campaign aims to support volunteering efforts at the national level and harness the expertise, skill and talents of community members. (Link)