

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Friday April 17, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As part of Abu Dhabi's stimulus package, the Abu Dhabi Department of Finance has partnered with a number of banks to provide small and medium-sized companies with more financing options. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has issued 30 violations and 375 warnings to various commercial facilities for failing to comply with the decisions and circulars recently issued by the department covering the price monitoring of fruits, vegetables and consumer goods. In addition, the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has carried out 31,223 inspection visits in 15 days. (Link)• The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) announced a new support package for businesses based in the DIFC that will give them a three-month rent free period on their base rent. (Link)• NAFFCO, a Dubai-based company, has contributed a total of AED 1 million to support the Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19. (Link)• The Federal Tax Authority has extended the tax period for excise tax registrants by one month. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 16, the UAE saw 460 new cases (6.4% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 5,825 total confirmed cases. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has announced that it will set up clinics in Mussafah and offer the residents there free coronavirus testing. (Link)• Dubai's International Humanitarian City has facilitated the distribution of over 85 percent of the World Health Organization's Global Medical Response in the fight against the coronavirus. (Link)• The Dubai Chamber of Industry has launched a streamlined guide to the National Disinfection Programme with an aim to help the private sector learn how to manage their businesses smoothly during the national disinfection drive. (Link)• Dubai's World Trade Centre has been turned into a 3,000 bed field hospital. (Link)• Dubai's COVID-19 Command and Control Centre has announced the UAE's first full genome sequencing of the coronavirus. Genome sequencing is an important tool for studying disease outbreaks. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharjah’s Airport Authority has announced that it will resume operations of passenger flights for those wishing to return to their home countries. Flights are to operate to Lar, Shiraz and Kabul. (Link) (Link) • Emirates Airlines becomes first airline to conduct on-site rapid coronavirus testing for passengers. Passengers on a flight to Tunisia were all tested for the coronavirus before departure. The test results are available within 10 minutes. (Link) • Emirates is planning to operate passenger services to Jakarta, Manila, Taipei, Chicago, Tunis, Algiers and Kabul in addition to the already commenced operation to London and Frankfurt. (Link) • Dubai’s Airport show, the world’s largest annual airport industry business to business platform, has been postponed to October 2020. (Link)
<p>Daily Life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) • Box of Hope, a community initiative started by Harmeeek Singh, a Dubai based businessman, has teamed up with the Dubai Municipality, UAE Food Bank and other humanitarian organizations to provide free meal boxes to labor camps of quarantined workers. (Link) • Dubai’s Department of Economic Development announced that it had coordinated a strategic collaboration between the Dubai Taxi Corporation, the Roads and Transport Authority, Aramex and Carrefour to support delivery of essential supplies to the community. (Link)