

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Sunday April 19, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UAE Central Bank has stated that banks in the UAE are not allowed to terminate employment contracts of nationals as a result of the coronavirus. (Link)• Khalifa Foundation launches 'Ramadan Ration' initiative which aims to provide food to those in need. (Link)• Emirates Red Crescent has announced that it will be a patron and provide care to the families of those who have deceased from the coronavirus. (Link)• 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)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 17, the UAE saw 477 new cases (3.7% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 6,302 total confirmed cases. (Link)• Abu Dhabi has opened two coronavirus testing facilities for workers in Musafah as part of the precautionary measures being put in place to ensure the health and safety of the community. (Link)• Dubai's Permanent Committee of Labour Affairs has distributed coronavirus awareness guides to workers, drivers and accommodation supervisors across 500 companies in the emirate. (Link)• The Nevada coronavirus task force has announced a partnership with the United Arab Emirates with the goal of rolling out high-level volume testing throughout the state. Vital testing materials have been acquired thanks to a long-term partnership with an Abu Dhabi based technology company, G42. (Link)• The UAE Cabinet has passed a resolution on the publishing and sharing of health information related to communicable diseases. The resolution aims to ensure community health, safety and wellbeing while countering any form of misinformation that could lead to a negative impact and mislead public opinion. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Department of Health has launched a new and innovative smartphone application titled TraceCovid, which allows users to keep track of coronavirus cases and curb its spread between members of society. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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)

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