

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Tuesday May 12, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UAE has announced that it does not have any plans to increase Value Added Tax (VAT) after Saudi Arabia triples its VAT in response to the economic hardships caused by the coronavirus. (Link) Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority has announced the allocation of additional exemption packages. The new package includes waiving both an AED 12,000 license fee and AED 6,900 registration package. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 11, the UAE saw 680 new cases (-12.9% from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 18,878 total confirmed cases. (Link) Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority has carried out 5,190 inspection visits to the emirate's food facilities since the beginning of Ramadan. The inspections are being conducted in an effort to improve food safety standards in the emirate. (Link) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, has ordered that all costs be covered for any critical coronavirus cases treated using a breakthrough stem cell medication. (Link) Researchers in the UAE have found that the country has two strains and 70 mutations of the coronavirus. (Link) A hospital dedicated to treating coronavirus patients in Abu Dhabi has opened. A branch of Dar Al Shifaa has added 80 beds to the emirate's capacity. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways has laid off a large number of employees due to the coronavirus pandemic and has warned for further cuts in the future. (Link) Emirates Airlines will raise debt as it braces for difficult months ahead. (Link) Abu Dhabi Airports announced its support for global efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic by ensuring the safe, secure and efficient transport of essential supplies and equipment through Abu Dhabi International Airport. (Link) Flydubai has announced that it will continue to focus its efforts on supporting government requests with repatriation flights and enabling the movement of essential goods across its network and beyond. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre has launched a remote guided cultural tour of the mosque, allowing people to enjoy the beauty of the mosque from home. (Link) The UAE has underlined its commitment to mitigating the effects of the coronavirus while protecting the rights of all citizens, residents and visitors, particularly those most vulnerable to the social, economic, humanitarian impacts of the virus. (Link) 16,502 people from 126 different nationalities have joined the UAE Volunteers campaign to help the fight against the coronavirus. (Link)