

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Thursday April 16, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) The Dubai Land Department, through its Real Estate Regulatory Agency, has announced the launch of a new initiative called “Together”. The new initiative aims to provide support for tenants and landlords by donating certain essential materials such as food, medicine, gloves and more. (Link) Al Husn Properties has waived rent for its residential flats and all its commercial offices, shops, warehouses, parking lands and labor camps in an effort to ease the economic suffering caused by the coronavirus. (Link) The UAE has launched its first National Fraud Awareness campaign. The campaign is a joint initiative between the UAE Banks Federation, the Central Bank, Abu Dhabi and Dubai Police. The campaign aims to educate and protect consumers from financial cybercrime and fraud. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 15, the UAE saw 432 new cases (4.8% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 5,365 total confirmed cases. (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) Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA) announced that it has completed over 28,000 telemedicine virtual consultations in March, which is the first month of the launch of the Telemedicine Virtual Outpatient Clinic. (Link) Saif bin Zayed adopts smart helmet technology to monitor coronavirus. The special device is to be used by police and will assist them in monitoring those who may be infected by the virus. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai's Airport show, the world's largest annual airport industry business to business platform, has been postponed to October 2020. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai police has issued a warning that drivers who fail to wear masks inside of their cars will be fined. (Link) • The Dubai municipality issued a circular restricting the movement of workers to other Emirates. Transporting labor workers outside of Dubai will be prohibited. (Link) • Sharjah will suspend public transport between cities until further notice. (Link)