

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Monday April 06, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UAE's Central Bank has issued joint guidance for banks and finance companies on the application of International Financial Reporting Standard 9 during the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) Sharjah's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called on property owners to delay rent payments from their tenants in an effort to ease the financial burden being suffering as a result of the coronavirus. (Link) Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company (ADNIC) has contributed AED 3 million to Ma'an Abu Dhabi toward the 'Together We Are Good' program. (Link) The UAE's Securities and Commodities Authority has provided listed companies with an additional 45 days to file their financial statements for 2019 and the first quarter of 2020. (Link) The Emirates Red Crescent has deployed a total of 5,000 food parcels amongst various areas of society as part of its contributions to the 'Fund of the UAE – Homeland of Humanity'. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 4, the UAE saw 294 new cases (22% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 1,799 total confirmed cases. (Link) The National Programme for Happiness and Wellbeing has launched a national campaign for mental support in an effort to help residents to overcome the psychological impact of the coronavirus pandemic. More than 50 experts in the fields of psychology, mental and social support and life skills are participating in the initiative. (Link) The Abu Dhabi Department of Health has launched a new smartphone application titled "Stay Home" that ensures people requested to self-quarantine in fact do so. In the best interests of the community, the application will enable the Department of Health to know the whereabouts of those individuals requested to self-quarantine to ensure that the conditions of the self-quarantine are not violated. (Link) Dubai to open 3 new drive-through coronavirus test centers. (Link) The Dubai Health Authority has extended the validity of expired health cards for three months starting from March 24, 2020. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UAE and the United Kingdom have signed a memorandum of understanding on transit flights for British nationals during the coronavirus outbreak. The understanding states that the two countries are ready to facilitate the movement of nationals between the each other during emergencies. (Link) Dubai Airports has been working with airlines, embassies and government authorities to provide solutions for passengers who have been stranded in Dubai's international airport. Passengers awaiting their repatriation flights are being provided with rooms and meals in hotels inside of Dubai's international airport. (Link)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etihad Airways is now allowing a select number of outbound flights to return individuals to their home country. Currently flights are available to Seoul, Singapore, Manila and Jakarta. (Link) • Emirates Airlines will be bringing home all stranded UAE nationals home for free. UAE nationals are directed to contact their closest embassy for more information. (Link) • All inbound and outbound passenger flights and the transit of airline passengers in the UAE have been suspended for an additional two weeks. The suspension still applies to those holding a valid UAE residency visa. Flights repatriating UAE nationals and carrying individuals outbound who wish to return to their home countries have been temporarily allowed. (Link) (Link) • Emirates Airlines has received approval from the UAE Government to begin operating certain outbound flights to London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Paris, Zurich and Brussels starting April 6. These flights are meant to carry individuals who wish to return to their home country. (Link) • On April 5, a special Emirates flight is scheduled to depart Dubai to repatriate vulnerable UK tourists. This flight has been made possible with the help of the UAE Government. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etihad Guest has launched a campaign to encourage members to donate their Etihad Guest Miles to support the prevention and response efforts in refugee communities affected by the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development has extended the closure of commercial centers, shopping malls, cinemas, electronic game halls and other entertainment destinations until further notice. (Link) • The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has launched the 'Early Leave' initiative. The initiative allows residents to take their annual leave early in order to allow them to travel home while repatriation flights are still available. (Link) • Dubai Economy has imposed fines on 14 merchants for inflating the price of face masks. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Department of Municipalities and Transport has announced that free bus services will be offered to employees in the medical sector to transport them between their home and place of work within Abu Dhabi. (Link) • The Dubai Free Zones Council (DFZC) announced that all free zones in the emirate have put in place remote working for some 95 percent of their staff. (Link) • Dubai has extended its sterilization program to 24 hours a day across all areas and communities. This means that individuals are highly discouraged from leaving their homes at all. Only one member of each family is permitted to leave to buy essential goods and must wear a mask and gloves when doing so. (Link)