

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Thursday April 02, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UAE Central Bank held its third meeting this year to discuss the implementation of the Targeted Economic Support Scheme, which is aimed at softening the coronaviruses' impact on the economy. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) free zone has launched support measures for registered businesses to counter the impact of the coronavirus. These measures include the waiver of a number of renewal fees and the refund of certain fees already paid (e.g. annual Funds fees). (Link) • The UAE's Securities and Commodities Authority has taken proactive steps to promote investor confidence. These steps include reducing loss thresholds from 10 percent to 5 percent and developed a mechanism to facilitate share buybacks. (Link) • The Dubai Future Foundation has launched the first issue from a series titled "Life After COVID-19: Workspaces. The series aims to tackle the different challenges that organizations in Dubai will face once the coronavirus pandemic subsides. (Link) • The Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) will introduce a series of fiscal easing initiatives over the next three months to help protect the businesses operating within the DIFC. (Link) • Emirates Airlines will receive a cash injection from the Government of Dubai as a show of full support. (Link) • Ajman's government has announced a stimulus package to support Ajman's local community and business sector. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 1, the UAE saw 150 new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 814 total confirmed cases. (Link) • Dubai Municipality has withdrawn 6 non-compliant hand sanitizers from the market. These non-complaint hand sanitizers are Lulu, Cosmo, Ziva, Feah, and Ameya Isopropyl Alcohol. (Link) • The National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA) has launched "Weqaya", a website (www.weqaya.ae) designed to raise public health awareness on the coronavirus. (Link) • Abu Dhabi Health Services has dedicated Al Ain Hospital to coronavirus patients. The hospitals current inpatients will be transferred to Tawam Hospital and other nearby medical facilities in Al Ain City. (Link) • Emirates SkyCargo has flown 500,000 coronavirus test kits to Sao Paulo on the first of two special charters carrying medical supplies from China to Brazil. (Link) • Mohammed Al Shehhi, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Economy, held a virtual meeting with representatives of consumer cooperatives from around the UAE to discuss the level essential commodities stocks, food prices and the availability of disinfectants. (Link) • Group 42, a leading technology company based in Abu Dhabi, has launched a new massive laboratory built to address the need for detection and diagnosis of the coronavirus. The lab

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	<p>is capable of conducting tens of thousands of tests per day and is the first of its scale outside of China. (Link)</p>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Etihad Airways announced that it has suspended all flights from or to Abu Dhabi for an initial period of two weeks. (Link) • UAE has evacuated a total of 1,743 UAE citizens currently abroad with 25 more evacuations currently underway. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UAE Pro League has announced the launch of a new social responsibility initiative titled “#SkillDonation” to support the Fund of the United Arab Emirates: Homeland of Humanity. (Link) • Dubai Economy has launched a Price Monitor portal to track daily prices of staple foods and essentials to ensure that consumers continue to get their basic needs at fair prices in spite of the precautionary measures being adopted. (Link) • The UAE has suspended the requirement to obtain a move permit in order to leave one’s home between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. during the National Sterilization Program. (Link) • A UAE school group, Al Najah Education, has announced a 20 percent reduction to its fees. (Link) • The Ministry of Community Development has launched four interactive channels under the name “Taaluf” to provide families with family counselling for free to all UAE community members. The initiatives have been launched primarily to mitigate the psychological and mental health impacts the coronavirus. (Link)