



## COVID-19 Global Mobility update

27 – 31 March 2020

Dear all,

Please find below our most recent Mobility related global updates specifically related to the COVID-19 crisis and current guidance or measures that different countries are putting into place.

If you have any questions on below, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

### **Updates by country:**

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### **Combating COVID-19 with resilience**

[Visit our Deloitte COVID-19 webpage](#) to see a collection of Global Deloitte insights to help businesses manage and mitigate the risk associated with COVID-19.

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## **China - Temporary suspension of entry by foreign nationals holding valid Chinese visas or residence permits**

### **What is the change?**

Effective 28 March, China will temporarily suspend the entry into China by foreign nationals holding visas or residence permits that are valid until the time of this announcement. Entry by foreign nationals with APEC Business Travel Cards will be suspended as well.

Policies including port visas, 24/72/144-hour visa-free transit policy, Hainan 30-day visa-free policy, 15-day visa-free policy specified for foreign cruise-group-tour through Shanghai Port, Guangdong 144-hour visa-free policy specified for foreign tour groups from Hong Kong or Macao SAR, and Guangxi 15-day visa-free policy specified for foreign tour groups from ASEAN countries will also be temporarily suspended.

Entry with diplomatic, service, courtesy or C visas will not be affected. Foreign nationals coming to China for necessary economic, trade, scientific or technological activities or out of emergency humanitarian needs may apply for visas at Chinese embassies or consulates.

Entry by foreign nationals with visas issued after this announcement will not be affected.

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## **China - Foreign airlines limited to one flight per week starting Sunday**

### **What is the change?**

Starting Sunday, 29 March, foreign airlines will be required to maintain only one air route to China and operate no more than one flight a week, the Civil Aviation Administration of China said. Domestic airlines also are asked to retain only one air route with each foreign country and operate no more than one flight a week.

Flights to and from China should carry no more than 75 percent of the passengers that they are licensed to carry. Flights could be further slashed in accordance with the development of the situation.

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## **China - Nucleic acid test for all travellers arriving in Shenzhen**

### **What is the change?**

With effect from 24 March, all travellers arriving in Shenzhen from Shenzhen ports will need to undergo a nucleic acid test for COVID-19.

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## **China - All inbound travellers to Shanghai to face quarantine**

### **What is the change?**

With effect from 6 p.m. on Thursday, 26 March, all travellers entering Shanghai from abroad will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Diplomats and those working in fields of important economic and trade, scientific and technological cooperation will be subjected to another set of regulations.

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## **China - 14-day concentrated medical observation and nucleic acid test for all travellers arriving in Guangdong**

### **What is the change?**

With effect from 6 a.m. on 27 March, all travellers (including travellers arriving from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, and transit travellers) arriving in Guangdong will be subject to a 14-day concentrated medical observation as well as nucleic acid test for COVID-19.

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## **India - Ban on international flights extended to 14 April**

### **What is the change?**

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International flights will remain banned till 14 April, the government announced amid a complete national lockdown to fight coronavirus. This represents an extension of a weeklong ban imposed last week. The ban will not apply to cargo flights or those specially permitted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

In addition, domestic flights have been banned till 31 March. Trains, metros, inter-state buses and all public transport have also been banned.

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## **Singapore - Advisory on safe distancing measures at the workplace**

### **What is the change?**

The tripartite partners—the MOM, the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) and the Singapore National Employers Federation (SNEF)—expect employers to adopt strict safe distancing measures at the workplace as outlined in this advisory, so as to provide a safe working environment for their employees.

MOM and Ministry of Health (MOH) will take enforcement actions against employers who do not implement safe distancing measures, including ordering employers or occupiers to cease operations until the measures are put in place.

More information on the various safe distancing measures, including work from home arrangements, as well as other arrangements for job roles or functions where employees cannot work from home, such as frontline operations and fieldwork at construction sites, shipyards or plants, can be found in the link below.

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## **Guyana - Restrictions on international flights and some services announced**

### **What is the change?**

The Guyana government recently announced new travel and immigration restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Key points:**

- Effective from midnight on March 18, international flights at the Eugene F. Correia International airport and the Cheddi Jagan International airport are suspended for two weeks.
- From March 14, until further notice, the ferry service between Suriname and Guyana is suspended

The new travel and immigration services changes will impact the movement of people to Guyana. Employers should account for affected travellers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly.

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## **Thailand - Immigration Bureau to grant Temporary Tourist Visas**

### **What is the change?**

Due to flight cancellations, tourists in Thailand may face difficulty in returning home. From 18 March, the Immigration Bureau will accept visa extension applications, and grant an extension not exceeding 30 days to applicants who fulfil the following conditions to enable them to legally remain in Thailand:

- Foreigner who has entered Thailand on a Tourist Visa, and has applied for a one-time visa extension; or
- Foreigner who has entered Thailand with other types of visa, but is unable to present a certifying letter issued by their national embassy in Thailand required to support their visa extension.

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## **Greece - Entry restrictions implemented, immigration services suspended**

### **What is the change?**

Greece has imposed entry restrictions and suspended immigration services in a bid to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

#### **Key Points:**

- Greece has suspended entry to non-EU/EFTA visitors. Non-EU/EFTA spouses and minor children of EU nationals are exempted from the entry suspension. Additionally emergency exemptions may be available in limited circumstances, i.e. medical staff, employment or

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family emergencies. Greece's entry ban is consistent with the EU's move to halt travel to the Schengen Area for 30 days.

- Greece's land borders with Albania, North Macedonia and Turkey remain closed at this time.
- Immigration authorities have suspended in-person appointments until Apr. 10. Residence permits that expire during this time will automatically be extended, according to the announcement of the Greek Ministry of Migration.

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## **Brazil - New measures affect residence authorizations, water entry ports**

### **What is the change?**

Brazilian authorities have issued additional COVID-19 measures that affect foreign nationals applying for residence authorization and all foreign nationals entering Brazil by water.

Prior residence authorizations will not be published in the Official Gazette until further notice. Although immigration authorities will continue to consider prior residence authorization applications, the suspension of publication also suspends visa issuance at Brazilian consulates until further notice.

The ban on entry by sea or river, which took effect March 26 and remains in effect for 30 days, applies to all nationals, except Brazilian citizens and immediate family members, immigrants with permanent residence in Brazil, and a limited number of other categories.

- **Implementation time frame:** Immediate and ongoing.
- **Visas/permits affected:** Residence authorization.
- **Business impact:** The suspension of residence authorization publication means that visa issuance at Brazilian consulates and registration procedures with the Federal Police are also suspended until further notice.



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Normally, when prior residence authorizations are approved, they are published in the Official Gazette and the foreign national has 90 days to register with the Federal Police after collecting the visa and traveling to Brazil. The Federal Police is currently only taking emergency appointments.

The new measures follow Brazil's travel ban on most of Europe, and several countries in South America and Asia to slow the spread of COVID-19. All nationals will be banned from entering Brazil via water. Employers should anticipate delays for residence authorizations.

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## **Malawi - COVID-19: Travel and visa restrictions issued**

### **What is the change?**

The Malawi government recently announced travel and visa restrictions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Key points:**

- The Government of Malawi has instituted an emergency order banning all commercial international flights for a period of three weeks, effective from Wednesday, April 1, 2020, in order to prevent any imported COVID-19 cases. The ban does not apply to cargo or goods.
- Effective from March 25, all visas on arrival at airports and ports of entry are suspended for three weeks. The suspension applies to all holders of passports who require a visa to enter the country. The suspension may be changed, depending on fluctuating COVID-19 circumstances.
- The suspension does not apply to Malawi residents, or holders of visas or entry permits that were valid before March 25.
- New visas will not be processed during the suspension.
- Government offices remain open at this time, but processing delays should be expected.

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- A temporary travel ban is currently in effect for travelers from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.
  - Quarantine facilities in Blantyre and Lilongwe have been designated for travelers demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival.

These measures remain subject to change, as they have been introduced in response to the rapidly changing global COVID-19 landscape.

The new visa and travel restrictions will impact the movement of people into Malawi. Employers should account for affected travelers and rearrange travel schedules accordingly. Delays may occur for consular and in-country processing.

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## **Singapore - Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) cancels Singaporean's passport for breaching Stay-Home Notice (SHN)**

### **What is the change?**

The ICA has cancelled the passport of a Singapore Citizen for breaching the SHN requirements. The case has also been referred to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for investigation.

ICA said that it will not hesitate to take strong enforcement action against those who fail to comply with SHN requirements. Besides cancellation of their immigration facilities, they can also be prosecuted under the Infectious Diseases Act and its Regulations, and face a fine of up to S\$10,000, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

ICA reminds all travellers to ensure that they submit complete and accurate travel declarations. From 27 March 2020, all

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travellers arriving in Singapore, including Singapore residents, must submit a health and travel declaration before proceeding with immigration clearance. Travellers will be required to provide their health status and recent travel history, as well as personal particulars and contact details. Anyone who makes a false or misleading declaration will be liable to prosecution under the Infectious Diseases Act. The penalty for providing false or misleading information is a fine of up to S\$10,000 and/or imprisonment of up to six months. For subsequent offence(s), the penalty is a fine up to S\$20,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 12 months. For non-Singaporeans, other administrative actions, such as revocation of, or shortening the validity of permits and passes to remain in Singapore, may also be taken.

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## **South Korea - South Korea to enforce mandatory two-week quarantine for all entrants from overseas**

### **What is the change?**

South Korea will enforce a two-week mandatory quarantine for all entrants from overseas starting 1 April 2020, government officials said Sunday.

All entrants to the country, regardless of nationality, will be required to stay in quarantine starting 1 April 2020. Visitors without local addresses here should stay in government-designated facilities at their own expense.

Exceptions will be applied to those coming to South Korea for public purposes and have specific visas such as diplomatic or public affairs visas.

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## **Singapore - Entry approval required for all Long-Term Pass holders**

### **What is the change?**

The ICA and the Ministry of Education (MOE) will implement additional precautionary measures for all Long-Term Pass (LTP) holders who are entering or returning to Singapore. These include holders of the Long-Term Visit Pass (LTVP), the Student's Pass (STP), as well as those who have been granted In-Principle Approval (IPA) for a LTP. These measures will come into effect from 29 March 2020, 11.59 p.m.

### **Entry approval for holders of LTVPs and STPs issued by ICA**

All LTVP holders<sup>1</sup>, as well as those who have been granted IPA for LTVP, who are planning to enter or return to Singapore, must obtain ICA's permission before they commence their journey to Singapore. They can do so by submitting their application for entry to [ICA\\_nCoV\\_request@ica.gov.sg](mailto:ICA_nCoV_request@ica.gov.sg).

All existing STP holders, and those who have been granted IPA for STP, who are planning to enter or return to Singapore must obtain MOE's permission before they commence their journey to Singapore. MOE will take into consideration the course in which the student is enrolled, and prioritise entry approval for those studying in publicly-funded Institutes of Higher Learning. STP holders, and those who have been granted IPA for STP, should submit their application to their respective educational institution, which will then forward their application to MOE.

If permission is granted, applicants will be issued an approval letter of entry by ICA for LTVP holders, or by MOE for STP holders, which is valid for two weeks. They must produce this approval letter of entry to airline staff upon check-in at the departure airport, and to the immigration officer at the checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

Applicants should not make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been given by ICA/MOE. If they arrive in Singapore without the approval letter of entry from ICA/MOE, ICA will not allow them to clear immigration, and will require them to fly out of Singapore within 48 hours, at their own

cost. If they fail to comply, ICA will cancel their pass or rescind their IPA.

### **Entry approval for Ministry of Manpower (MOM)'s Work Pass Holders**

Currently, the MOM has been requiring all new and existing Work Pass holders<sup>2</sup> (including dependants<sup>3</sup>) to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey to Singapore. The entry approval requirement applies to:

- a. Existing Work Pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- b. Those who have been granted IPA for a Work Pass, who have yet to enter Singapore.

Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#). Work Pass holders who arrive in Singapore without a valid entry approval will not be allowed to clear immigration, and will be asked to fly out of Singapore within 48 hours, at their own cost.

Work Pass holders whose application for entry approval has been rejected should not enter or return to Singapore yet. They should apply again for the required approval. Those who do not comply and fly to Singapore nevertheless will have their Work Pass revoked and will be barred from future employment in Singapore.

For more information on the actions to be taken by employers to bring pass holders (Work Pass holders and their dependants) from overseas into Singapore, please refer to the corresponding section on the [MOM website](#).

*1 LTVPs are also issued by MOM to common-law spouses, step-children, handicapped children or parents of an Employment Pass or S Pass holder. MOM-issued LTVP holders will have to obtain MOM's approval for entry.*

*2 Holders of LTVP issued by ICA, who also have a Letter of Consent (LOC) or Pre-Approved Letter of Consent (PLOC) issued by MOM, should obtain ICA's entry approval.*

*3 Dependant's Pass holders and MOM-issued LTVP holders.*

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## **Thailand - Travel advisory for travellers to Thailand**

### **What is the change?**

Following the declaration of state of emergency in Thailand on 25 March 2020, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand has issued the following travel advisory for travellers to Thailand:

Passengers or persons shall be permitted to enter Thailand through international airport **only** if they fall under one of the following categories:

- a. Persons in a situation or persons exempted by the Prime Minister or Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under certain conditions and prescribed time periods
- b. Carriers of necessary cargoes, but prompt exit is required after the mission is completed
- c. Pilots-in-command, and crew members of the flight entering Thailand with clear schedule to depart
- d. Persons on diplomatic or consular mission, or under International Organisations, representatives of the government performing their duties in Thailand or other persons or international agencies with the permission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and their families. In this case, a certificate of entry to the Kingdom issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required.
- e. Non-Thai nationals with work permit or who have been granted permission from Thai government agencies to work in Thailand
- f. Thai nationals with certificate of entry to the Kingdom issued by the Royal Thai Embassy or Royal Thai Consulate in their country of residence certifying that they are Thais returning to Thailand, and a Fit to Fly Health Certificate.

Persons in (d) and (e) must have a Fit to Fly Health Certificate issued no more than 72 hours before travelling.

Passengers or persons permitted to enter Thailand shall strictly comply with disease prevention measures imposed by the government. The immigration officers have the power to deny the entry of Non-Thai nationals who have tested positive for COVID-19, are under suspicion of being infected, or refuse to undergo such a test.

## Transit travellers

From now till midnight on 31 March 2020, Thailand local time, an exemption is given to Non-Thai passengers transiting through Thailand to a third country with a transit time of no more than 24 hours. Such transit passengers are required to present a Fit to Fly Health Certificate upon check in at the airport of departure to Thailand and during transit formalities in Thailand. To view the full list of special exemptions for transit travellers, please click [here](#).

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