

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Sunday April 12, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emirates Islamic has contributed AED 10 million to the 'Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19'. The fund aims to support the effort to mitigate the health, economic and social challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) The Dubai government is freezing all hiring and cutting administrative spending by at least 20% across all departments as the coronavirus continues to spread. (Link) The Abu Dhabi government has directed AED 15 billion worth of tenders to local businesses as the coronavirus pandemic spreads. The program includes 1,244 tenders and aims to boost productivity and strengthen supply chains. (Link) The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), the financial services regulator of the Dubai International Financial Center (DIFC) has announced certain economic relief measures to its licensees. The measures include providing additional time for completing applications for authorization and a 50% reduction in application fees. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 11, the UAE saw 376 new cases (1.6% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 3,736 total confirmed cases. (Link) Abu Dhabi police distribute facemasks and personal protective supplies in certain areas, including Musaffah, Al Mafraq and Al Shawamekh, as part of the "For Your Safety" Campaign. (Link) Abu Dhabi Health Services Company (SEHA), has announced the opening of 13 additional drive-through coronavirus testing facilities. (Link) The UAE has conducted over 49,000 coronavirus tests over the past two days involving various segments of society. (Link) Dubai is building two field hospitals that will be able to cater to thousands of coronavirus patients as a precaution against a potential surge in cases. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emirates Airlines is to begin operating some passenger flights from Dubai Airport Terminal 3. Emirates Airlines is asking prospective passengers to contact Emirates directly for more information. (Link) FlyDubai has operated 23 repatriation flights carrying more than 2,800 passengers from the UAE between March 19 and April 8, 2020. (Link) Etihad Airways has announced that will be providing special flights from Abu Dhabi to Melbourne and Amsterdam over the next two weeks to help citizens of Australia and the Netherlands to return home. (Link) Emirates SkyCargo has repurposed a number of passenger airplanes to carry cargo. Emirates SkyCargo has operated 160 flights in one week and is anticipating more as demand continues to rise. (Link)

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Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Abu Dhabi Bank has joined forces with Emirates Red Crescent to provide meals for frontline health professionals fighting the coronavirus. (Link) • The relevant authorities have referred 129 people to the Attorney-General for failing to abide by the quarantine and isolation measures implemented by various bodies to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Those who fail to comply with home quarantine orders may face fines and/or jail time. (Link) • The UAE announces the suspension of prayers in all places of worship until further notice. (Link)