

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Friday April 24, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Economy and Abu Dhabi Ports have announced a collaborative plan aimed at accelerating economic growth through the exchange of information and attraction of global investors. (Link)• The UAE Central Bank has confirmed that 60% of the Targeted Economic Substance Scheme has been used by financial institutions to the benefit of small and medium sized enterprises. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Global Market Courts has launched a new pro bono legal assistance scheme that will provide free legal advice to individuals with limited financial means. The pro bono scheme is a new permanent feature of the ADGM. (Link)• An anonymous donor has pledged 250,000 meals, worth AED 2 million, to the UAE's biggest food distribution drive, the '10 million meals campaign'. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 23, the UAE saw 518 new cases (7.24% increase from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 8,756 total confirmed cases. (Link)• The 'UAE Volunteers' national campaign has launched two hotlines to communicate with the members of the community virtually. These virtual volunteers will communicate with senior Emiratis and answer their questions. (Link)• Sheikh Khalifa Medical City in Abu Dhabi has completed a makeshift hospital to treat patients infected with the coronavirus in just 48 hours. (Link)• Only 12 out of 1,200 frontline paramedics of Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services have tested positive for the coronavirus, with five of them fully recovering. (Link)• The UAE is close to completing one million coronavirus tests, covering about 10% of the population. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emirates Airlines has announced a limited number of flights to Frankfurt, Jakarta, Johannesburg, Lagos, London, Madrid, Manila and Tunis starting next week. (Link)• The UAE government has coordinated with Islamabad to allocate additional flights to repatriate Pakistani nationals wishing to go home from the UAE. About 12 repatriation flights will depart the UAE between April 20 and April 28 and will be operated by Emirates Airline, Air Arabia and PIA. (Link)• Dubai Airports planning for phased travel re-start after coronavirus restrictions lift. (Link)• Etihad Airways has announced a new non-stop flight to Chicago on April 25. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Timing for the national disinfection program has been reduced, now allowing individuals to leave their homes between 6 am and 10 pm each day. (Link)• Beginning on April 24, Dubai will be easing its restrictions on movement. Individuals in Dubai will be able to leave their homes between 6 am and 10 pm without a permit. (Link)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority has announced that Dubai's metro, public buses and taxi services will be restored following a decision by Dubai's Supreme Committee of Crisis Management to partially reduce controls on movement in the Emirate. (Link) • As part of the precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the cannon firing ceremony to announce Iftar will continue without spectators. (Link) • The Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development and Dubai Economy have issued guidelines for re-opening commercial centers. These guidelines include reduced opening hours, mandatory testing for all employees, and masks and gloves must be worn by all shoppers (Link) (Link)