

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Wednesday April 15, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Federal Tax Authority has extended the tax period for excise tax registrants by one month. (Link) • The Dubai Land Department, through its Real Estate Regulatory Agency, has announced the launch of a new initiative called “Together”. The new initiative aims to provide support for tenants and landlords by donating certain essential materials such as food, medicine, gloves and more. (Link) • Al Husn Properties has waived rent for its residential flats and all its commercial offices, shops, warehouses, parking lands and labor camps in an effort to ease the economic suffering caused by the coronavirus. (Link) • The UAE has launched its first National Fraud Awareness campaign. The campaign is a joint initiative between the UAE Banks Federation, the Central Bank, Abu Dhabi and Dubai Police. The campaign aims to educate and protect consumers from financial cybercrime and fraud. (Link) • Dubai Economy exempts 9 food-related activities from closure during the National Disinfection Programme. These activities include meat trading, fruit and vegetable trading, roasters, mills, fish trading, coffee trading and tea trading. (Link) • Dutco Group of companies has pledged to donate AED 15 million to support the Community Solidarity Fund. (Link) • Al Hamra Real Estate is cutting cooling charges by up to 20 percent for its tenants in the Bayti villas, the Royal Breeze Residences, the Marina Apartments, the Golf Apartments and Bab al Bahr Residences. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 14, the UAE saw 412 new cases (3.5% increase) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 4,933 total confirmed cases. (Link) • Nakheel will be undergoing a process to disinfect all 647 residential buildings in its Dubai property portfolio in an effort to safeguard public health. (Link) • Several hotels and one school in Abu Dhabi have contributed more than 1,030 rooms to Ma'an's “Together We Are Good” programme to accommodate doctors, nurses and other medical professionals and support staff working on the frontline. (Link) • Dubai Healthcare City Authority has launched an e-license for healthcare professionals as part of several measures to support frontline health workers during the coronavirus pandemic. (Link) • Healthpoint expands drive-thru coronavirus testing facility to have the capacity to perform up to 375 tests per day. (Link) • HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has launched the National Home Testing Program for People of Determination to ensure that all segments of society have adequate access to testing. (Link)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abu Dhabi Waste Management Center has deployed a specialized team as part of an effort to disinfect targeted shopping centers across Abu Dhabi. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emirates is planning to operate passenger services to Jakarta, Manila, Taipei, Chicago, Tunis, Algiers and Kabul in addition to the already commenced operation to London and Frankfurt. (Link) Dubai's Airport show, the world's largest annual airport industry business to business platform, has been postponed to October 2020. (Link) Ethad Airways has announced additional special passenger flights. These new flights will be outbound only from Abu Dhabi to Brussels, Dublin, London, Tokyo and Zurich. (Link) 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)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dubai police has issued a warning that drivers who fail to wear masks inside of their cars will be fined. (Link) The Dubai municipality issued a circular restricting the movement of workers to other Emirates. Transporting labor workers outside of Dubai will be prohibited. (Link) Sharjah will suspend public transport between cities until further notice. (Link) First Abu Dhabi Bank has joined forces with Emirates Red Crescent to provide meals for frontline health professionals fighting the coronavirus. (Link) Abu Dhabi's Judicial Department has completed 664 notary public attestations remotely. (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)