

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Wednesday April 22, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PepsiCo has announced that it will contribute AED 1 million to the Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19, which was launched by the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department in Dubai to support efforts to mitigate the health, economic and social repercussions of the pandemic. (Link)• The Federal Tax Authority has issued a directive to extend the VAT tax deadline and the payment of due tax for the period ending March 31, 2020 to May 28, 2020. (Link)• The Central Bank has stated that UAE Banks have availed 30 percent of the AED 50 billion Target Economic Support Scheme. The scheme was launched on March 15 to help individuals, small to medium companies and other private businesses impacted by the current coronavirus. (Link)• A survey has found that the UAE has launched over 100 economic incentives over 45 days. These incentives include providing bank facilities to various economic sectors, postponing dues and others. (Link)• The Mohammed bin Rashid Humanitarian and Charity Establishment announced dedicating AED 20 million to support the '10 million meals' campaign that aims to provide food assistance for coronavirus-hit communities in the UAE. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On April 21, the UAE saw 490 new cases (1.24% increase from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 7,755 total confirmed cases. (Link)• Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority is providing a fleet of buses and taxis to ensure a safe trip home for recovered coronavirus patients. (Link)• Hospitals in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain have received temporary CT scanning units to help detect cases of coronavirus. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Health Services company (SEHA) has established three field hospitals in the UAE as it continues to play an integral role on the frontlines of the nation's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic. (Link)• The Executive Committee of the Bureau International des Expositions has collectively agreed to recommend the postponement of Expo 2020 Dubai to the 1st of October 2021. (Link)• Government teams along with volunteers are working around the clock to secure the safety and health of the community under the 'Your City Needs You' campaign, part of the 'Day for Dubai' app. The campaign consolidates the efforts of many humanitarian organizations and as of today has attracted 12,230 volunteers from 40 nationalities. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Department of Health has added new features to its Istijaba' e-system database, which facilitate connectivity between the public and the private healthcare sectors to identify requirements and manage resources. (Link)• Khalifa University of Science and Technology researchers have developed a mathematical model of the highly infectious coronavirus. This model should provide valuable information to non-experts and policymakers to understand what to expect as the disease spreads. (Link)

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Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Arabia announced that it will operate new repatriation flights from four cities in India to Sharjah carrying UAE nationals back home. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism has launched a new virtual exploration platform that allows users to go on 360-degree virtual tours while at home. (Link) The Ministry of Education has announced that university students will not be issued academic warnings, be placed under monitoring or be dismissed while distance learning is in place. (Link) The Commercial Compliance and Consumer Protection sector in Dubai Economy has imposed fines on seven traders, including three pharmacies in Warsan, Al Qusais and Al Jaddaf for tampering with the prices of face masks. (Link)