



Singapore – advisory by the Ministry of Trade & Industry (MTI) on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

➤ **Travel Restrictions**

- With effect from 1 February 2020, all new visitors with recent travel history to mainland China (within the last 14 days) **will not be allowed entry into Singapore**, or to transit through Singapore. This applies to individuals regardless of their nationality.
- With immediate effect, the following returning groups will be issued an advisory for them to be placed on a **14-day leave of absence** from the day of their return from China:
 - a. Residents (Singapore Citizens/ Permanent Residents) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days; and
 - b. Long-term pass holders (including Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependant's Pass and Long-Term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days.

➤ **Leave of Absence**

- With effect from 31 January 2020, MOM requires returning work pass holders entering Singapore with travel history to mainland China (within the last 14 days) to **take a 14-day leave of absence upon arrival** in Singapore. Existing work pass holders with Hubei-issued passports or with recent travel history to Hubei will continue to be quarantined upon their return to Singapore.
- Employers may refer to MOH's [Health Advisory for Persons Placed on Leave of Absence \(LOA\)](#) for details.
- **Do closely monitor** the health condition of employees who have been in mainland China and returned to Singapore before 31 January 2020 for 14 days upon their return to Singapore.
- During the 14-day monitoring period, companies encouraged to adopt **flexible work arrangements**, such as telecommuting and teleconferencing to allow employees to
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- work from home. If remote working is not possible, the following options may be considered:
 - Provide paid Leave of Absence above and beyond annual leave, especially if the travel was work-related. To better support employees, employers should consider this option even if the travel was not work-related;
 - Allow employees to apply for annual leave;
 - Treat Leave of Absence as sick leave;
 - Allow employees to apply for no-pay leave;
 - Other mutually agreed arrangements.
- Employers may refer to [MOM's advisory](#) for more details on the 14-day monitoring period.
- Employees who are **served a Quarantine Order** will be deemed to be on paid sick leave. The period of absence from work will be treated as paid hospitalisation leave, as part of the employees' hospitalisation leave eligibility under their employment contracts, collective agreements or as per the Employment Act.

➤ **Visas and Work Passes**

- The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) **will suspend issuance of all forms of new visas (including work passes) to PRC passport holders**. Singapore will also suspend Singapore's status as a visa-free transit facility for PRC passport holders
- Previously issued short-term and multiple-visit visas **will also be suspended for individuals with PRC passports**. During this period of suspension, they will not be allowed entry into Singapore.
- Existing holders of Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependant's Pass, and Long-Term Visit Pass will be allowed to enter Singapore. Businesses should plan ahead and renew your work passes in a timely manner. Given that no new work passes for PRC passport holders will be granted until the suspension is lifted, businesses are encouraged to submit applications to renew their work passes early.

➤ **Impact on Businesses**

- Businesses should stay prepared with business continuity plans. To facilitate this, a **Business Continuity Guide** has been prepared to help businesses in developing plans to deal with the Coronavirus. The guide will serve as a general reference for businesses in planning for a pandemic caused by influenza and other novel respiratory infections, and recommend actions that businesses may take at each alert code (as determined by the MOH). This guide is available on Enterprise Singapore's website (www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/2019-ncov).
- Although there are no signs of a community spread in Singapore, MTI advises all businesses to take the **appropriate precautionary measures** in accordance with the latest advisories published by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).

- On 29 January 2020, MOH set up the **Quarantine Order Allowance (QOA) Scheme** to mitigate financial impact for those who have been served Quarantine Orders. Under the scheme, claims of \$100 per day can be made by two groups:
 - Self-employed; and
 - Employers, who have employees issued with Quarantine Orders.
- Employers may refer to this link on the [MOH website for full details on the eligibility criteria of the QOA Scheme](#).
- Employees who have returned to Singapore from overseas (regardless of location) should monitor their health closely, and see a doctor promptly if they are unwell and inform their doctor of their travel history. If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose, fever, sore throat, breathlessness), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of the visit.

➤ **Precautionary Measures for General Employees**

- Companies should remind employees to remain vigilant, **adopt good personal hygiene practices**, and exercise the following precautions at all times:
 - Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
 - Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
 - Observe good personal hygiene;
 - Practise frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to the toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
 - Wear a mask if one has respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
 - Cover one's mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
 - Seek medical attention promptly if one is feeling unwell.

➤ **Precautionary Measures for Specific Sectors**

- The MOH has compiled a list of advisories for companies and employees in specific sectors. Please refer to the list [here](#).

For any additional information, contact [Lisbeth Lanvers-Shah](#) or [Olivier Monange](#)