

Client Alert

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Singapore Immigration Restrictions

In view of the heightened risk of importation of COVID-19 cases into Singapore, Singapore has implemented measures for all travellers coming into Singapore.

No entry or transit through Singapore for all short-term visitors, with limited entry for work pass holders

From 23 March 2020, 2359 hours, all short-term visitors (from anywhere in the world) will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will only allow the entry/return of work pass holders, including their dependents, for those providing essential services, such as in healthcare and transport. This is subject to them obtaining the MOM's approval before they commence their journey to Singapore. However, Malaysians with Singapore work permits will continue to be able to work in Singapore during this period, with appropriate accommodation arrangements, as agreed by the Singapore-Malaysia Special Working Committee.

14-Day Stay-Home Notice for all travellers

All Singaporeans, Permanent Residents, Long Term Pass holders returning to Singapore will be issued a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). Persons under SHN shall remain in their place of residence at all times and they should monitor their health closely and seek medical attention immediately if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath. They will have to provide proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN.

Singapore's border control measures in relation to COVID-19 are summarised in the table below:

Travel History in Countries/Regions	For Singapore Residents and Long-Term Pass Holders	For Short-Term Visitors
Hubei province (mainland China)	14-day quarantine	Not allowed entry or transit
All other countries/regions	14-day SHN	

The Government will continue to implement surveillance and enforcement measures to ensure compliance with the SHN, so that the well-being of the community is not put at risk. The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will conduct mandatory checks on Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Long-Term Visit Pass holders who are placed on a 14-day SHN, from the day of return from the countries/regions listed above. Affected individuals will be





contacted through multiple platforms including phone calls, WhatsApp or Short Message Service (SMS).

Employers and employees have a joint duty to ensure that employee behaves responsibly during the SHN. MOM will continue to take enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the SHN requirements, including the revocation of work passes and suspension of work pass privileges.

Ministry of Manpower entry approval and Stay-Home Notices

All employers are strongly urged to defer bringing their foreign employees into Singapore. From 20 March 2020, 2359 hours, MOM require all new and existing work pass holders (including dependants) planning to enter/return to Singapore from any country, to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey. The entry approval requirement applies to:

- a. Existing work pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- b. In-Principle Approval holders who have yet to enter Singapore

Upon arrival in Singapore, all affected work pass holders will be placed on a mandatory 14-day SHN. When applying for entry approval, employers will be required to declare to MOM that they have arranged for suitable premises to house these entering/returning employees for the duration of their SHN. Employers must ensure they can fulfil the [additional responsibilities](#) to bring their foreign employees in. If the foreign employees have dependants, who are not issued any work passes including Letter of Consent (LOC), the employees must also fulfil their [responsibilities towards their dependants](#).

Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#) and they can use the [entry approval calculator](#) to plan when to submit the request. Employers should inform their affected employees (including their dependants) not to make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been received from MOM. The employers will be required to send the MOM approval letter to the employees who will need to show it to the airline staff upon check-in and at the ICA checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

For new or existing	Who needs to request for approval	Who is responsible to ensure SHN is observed
Work pass holders, including those with LOC	Employer	Employer and work pass holder
DP or LTVP holders who are not employed i.e. not issued a work pass, including LOC	Local sponsor i.e. employer of EP or S Pass holder	EP / S Pass holder and DP / LTVP holder



MOM will not hesitate to take enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the requirements set out above, including the revocation of work passes and withdrawal of work pass privileges. As of 21 March 2020, the MOM has revoked the work passes of 89 work pass holders for breaching entry approval and SHN requirements. The workers have been permanently banned from working in Singapore. MOM has also suspended the work pass privileges of employers for periods ranging from one to three years, as they have failed to discharge their duties to ensure that their employees comply with the SHN requirements. Singapore is strictly enforcing the SHN measures and persons under SHN must strictly comply with the requirements.

Issuance of visas and extension of stay in Singapore

The issuance of all forms of new visas and previously issued visas to those with People's Republic of China (PRC) passports and Iranian passports have been suspended. The visa-free transit facility for those with PRC passports has also been suspended.

Visitors affected by the above policy and need to visit Singapore due to extenuating reasons may submit the completed [Form 14](#) (Part V is optional) to ICA_nCoV_request@ica.gov.sg, together with the following documents:

- A copy of the passport bio data page
- Any other supporting documents.

Visitors who are already in Singapore will not be affected by the policy. They may apply [online](#) if there is a need to extend their stay in Singapore.

Precautionary testing for symptomatic travellers

Travellers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness are required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoint, regardless of travel history. All such travellers will be issued a 14-day SHN, which they will have to serve in full even if the result of the swab test is negative. Those who meet the clinical suspect case definition will be conveyed to the hospital for follow-up.

Singapore permanent residents and Long-Term Pass holders who refuse testing may have their immigration facilities and work pass privileges revoked or the validity shortened. All travellers, including Singapore citizens, who do not comply with the testing or who cannot be contacted subsequently may face penalties and can be prosecuted under the Infectious Diseases Act.

Health Declaration – SG Arrival Card e-Service

From 27 March 2020, 0900 hours, all travellers arriving in Singapore, including Singaporeans, Permanent Residents, Long Term Pass holders, must submit a health declaration before proceeding with immigration clearance. They will have to do so via the [SG Arrival Card \(SGAC\) e-Service](#). The health declaration will be made available before 27 March 2020 as part of the SGAC e-Service, so that



travellers who are due to arrive in Singapore after 27 March, 0900 hours, can complete it in advance of their arrival.

This new entry requirement is an additional precautionary measure to mitigate the risk of importation of COVID-19 into Singapore, and will be subject to further review based on the global COVID-19 situation. All residents and Long Term Pass holders who are submitting their health declaration will need to select "Residents" on the SGAC e-Service, after which they will be directed to provide their health and recent travel information, as well as personal and contact details.

All travellers can submit their health declaration up to three days prior to arrival in Singapore. They must re-submit their health declaration if there are changes to their health condition or travel history before arriving in Singapore. Those who make false declarations will be liable for prosecution under the Infectious Diseases Act.

Travellers who have not submitted their health declaration electronically before arriving in Singapore will be required to do so upon arrival at the checkpoint, which could delay their immigration clearance. The mobile application can be downloaded for free from Apple App Store and Google Play.

Discontinuation of Paper-based Disembarkation / Embarkation Card

With effect from 27 March 2020, 0900 hours, ICA will also discontinue the paper-based disembarkation/embarkation card. Accordingly, when entry for short-term visitors resumes in the future, these travellers will need to provide their arrival and departure information via SGAC e-Service instead.