

01 February 2020

Advisory on the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) for Businesses

1. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce on the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has decided to take additional steps to limit the potential risk that new travelers arriving from mainland China pose to Singapore.

Travel Restrictions

2. With effect from 1 February 2020, 2359h, 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Employers may refer to MOH's [Health Advisory for Persons Placed on Leave of Absence \(LOA\)](#) for details.

6. Previously announced quarantine requirements for returning residents and long-term pass holders with travel history to Hubei, or with PRC passports issued in Hubei, remain in effect.

Visas and Work Passes

7. The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will suspend issuance of all forms of new visas (including work passes) to PRC passport holders. We will also suspend Singapore's status as a visa-free transit facility for PRC passport holders.

8. 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.
9. 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. The Government will work closely with businesses to facilitate this process.
 - a. Work Permits can be renewed as soon as businesses receive their renewal notices 6 weeks prior to expiry; and
 - b. Dependant's Pass, Long Term Visit Pass, Employment Pass, S Pass can be renewed up to 6 months prior to expiry.

Impact on Businesses

10. 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 novel coronavirus (nCoV). 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).
11. Although there are no signs of a community spread in Singapore, we advise 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 \(MOM\)](#).
12. We will continue to monitor developments and work closely with partners – businesses, the Trade Associations and Chambers, and Unions – to support businesses and workers.

Latest Updates

13. All businesses and employees should closely monitor novel coronavirus (nCov)-related developments and follow travel and health advisories. Please refer to the [MOH website for the latest update on the situation](#).

14. Please refer to the list of Frequently Asked Questions attached. For further queries, please contact:

Ministry of Manpower
MOM Contact Centre, Tel: (65) 6438 5122
Online Enquiry via this link:
www.mom.gov.sg/feedback
Website: www.mom.gov.sg

Ministry of Health
MOH General Hotline, Tel: (65) 6325 9220
Online Enquiry via this link:
<https://crms.moh.gov.sg/mohfeedback.aspx>
Website: www.moh.gov.sg

This advisory is based on information updated as of 1 February 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Businesses

Travel Restrictions and Precautionary Measures

1. Do the entry restrictions apply to travellers to the Special Administrative Regions of China?

No, the travel ban and precautionary measures apply to new visitors who have travelled to mainland China in the past 14 days.

2. What is a Leave of Absence (LOA)?

A LOA is a precautionary measure intended to prevent possible transmissions of infections.

Individuals who have been put on a leave of absence should stay at home and avoid social contact. They should avoid crowded places and attending social or public gatherings, so as to minimise close contact with others. They should monitor their health closely, and seek medical attention if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.

Please refer to MOH's [Health Advisory for Persons Placed on Leave of Absence \(LOA\)](#) for more details.

3. Do the entry restrictions apply to all travellers?

The following returning groups will be allowed entry:

- a. Singapore Citizens;
- b. Permanent Residents (PRs); and
- c. Long-term pass holders (including Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependant's Pass and Long-Term Visit Pass).

4. What should businesses do if they have employees who have travelled to China / are planning to travel to China?

Businesses are advised to obtain health and travel declarations from employees on whether they have travelled to China recently, or if they have any upcoming travel plans to China. Businesses are advised to defer all travel to Hubei Province and non-essential travel to mainland China.

Employees with mainland China travel history (within the past 14 days) will be issued an advisory to be placed on a 14-day leave of absence (LOA) from the day of their return from mainland China.

MOM requires 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.

5. What should I do if there is no space or spare dormitories within my institution to segregate staff who have returned from mainland China?

There is no need to segregate staff who have returned from mainland China. The leave of absence is intended to mitigate potential risks by minimizing the time the individual spends at the workplace or educational institution. Instead, employers should monitor the health of those staff, and advise them to maintain good personal hygiene, and to seek medical attention if unwell.

6. Who will be quarantined? How are employers affected?

The following groups of people will be quarantined:

- Individuals who have travelled to Hubei within the last 14 days
- Returning PRs and long-term pass holders with PRC passports issued in Hubei
- Recent travellers from Hubei who are already in Singapore – MOH will assess who among this group are at higher risk and will quarantine them

Employees who are served a Quarantine Order will be deemed to be on paid hospitalisation leave, as part of the employees' hospitalisation leave eligibility under their employment contracts or agreements.

7. What about employees who have family members who returned from China recently? Will these individuals be subject to quarantine or LOA?

Employers should monitor the health of their staff, and advise them to keep good personal hygiene and to seek medical attention if unwell. These individuals will not be subject to quarantine or LOA, but should follow MOH's health advisory.

Work Passes

8. Can existing work passes be renewed for foreign workers holding PRC passports?

Yes, existing work passes can be renewed. However, if these employees have returned or have plans to return to mainland China, they will be quarantined upon their return to

Singapore. In light of the rapidly evolving situation, employers are strongly encouraged to plan ahead and renew their work passes early, to retain their existing workers.

9. Can individuals with in-principle approved work passes, who have travelled to mainland China within the last 14 days, enter Singapore?

Yes. Work pass holders entering Singapore with travel history to mainland China (within the last 14 days) are required to take a 14-day LOA upon arrival in Singapore.

Individuals arriving from Hubei or with a Hubei-issued passport will be quarantined upon entering Singapore.

Support for Businesses

10. Will the Government put in place support measures for affected businesses?

The Government is monitoring the situation closely, and are working with the Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) and Unions to put in place the necessary support measures for our enterprises and workers. The Government is also studying how best to support the hospitality, tourism, retail, and food and beverage sectors, which have been especially hit by the novel coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak.

More information on the support measures for businesses and Singaporeans will be provided at a later date.

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.

Please refer to MOH's website for more details on the QOA scheme.

In the meantime, we recommend for businesses to start developing or updating their business continuity plans. A Business Continuity Guide has been prepared to help

businesses in developing plans to deal with the novel coronavirus (nCoV). 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).