Visa First
GLOBAL VISA SPECIALISTS

COVID-19 TRAVEL INFORMATION AND VISA UPDATES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

These are extraordinary times. For nearly a year, international travel has been facing an unprecedented decline, with many countries implementing restrictions on those who wish to pass their borders.

Restrictions range from country-to-country, from limitations on visas and work permits to mandatory quarantine upon entry and providing PCR tests before/during or after travelling. With the aim of curbing the spread of the disease at the forefront of almost everyone's mind, it is only natural that this has affected travel for both businesses and holidaymakers alike.

Some countries have introduced immigration concessions to facilitate applications such as moving to online applications, accepting soft copies of documents, granting automatic extension approvals, etc. However, as there are new changes on daily basis, these concessions must be reviewed country-by-country.

Disclaimer

The information that is contained in this immigration alert has been abridged from laws and administrative rulings and should not be construed or relied upon as legal advice. Please make sure to double check the current travel restrictions that might occur due to Covid 19 before arranging your travel.

07 June 2021: Brazil, Ethiopia, Ireland, Oman, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey

21 May 2021: Ireland

12 May 2021: Australia, Bangladesh, Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Vietnam

27 April 2021: Bangladesh, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, United Kingdom

21 April 2021: India, Russia, United States

16 April 2021: Bangladesh

09 April 2021: Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Russia

05 April 2021: Azerbaijan, Ireland, Thailand, United Kingdom

25 March 2021: Pakistan, Sri Lanka

17 March 2021: China, United Kingdom

12 March 2021: Russia

10 March 2021: China

02 March 2021: Canada, United Kingdom

22 February 2021: Australia

19 February 2021: Canada

18 February 2021: India

15 February 2021: Oman

12 February 2021: Ireland

10 February 2021: Canada

08 February 2021: Document created

ALGERIA

◊ All borders are currently closed.

◊ Entry is permitted for returning Algerian citizens, foreign nationals with diplomatic visas and employees of foreign companies operating in Algeria. Authorisation must first be obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Prior to travel.

◊ 14 days quarantine is mandatory for all travellers to Algeria.

◊ Visas are not currently accepted or processed.

AUSTRALIA

◊ All direct passenger flights from India are suspended and travellers who have been in India in the 14 days before their departure are not permitted to enter Australia until 15th May.

◊ The ban on international travel continues. All international travellers are advised to check the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Health websites before commencing travel to Australia.

◊ Quarantine-free flights between Australia and New Zealand are resuming as of 18th April. All travellers who have been in either Australia or New Zealand for 14 days can travel by air between Australia and New Zealand quarantine free, without the need to apply for a travel exemption. This includes travellers who have spent all 14 days in either safe travel zone country, or people who have travelled between the two countries and are returning within the 14 day period. All people residing in Australia or New Zealand (including foreign nationals) can use quarantine free travel, as long as they meet the health, immigration and other standard border clearance requirements in each country. More information about Australia can be found here: Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for international travellers.

◊ All travellers to or through Australia (other than those on quarantine-free flights from New Zealand), must provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test to their airline, taken 72 hours or less before their scheduled departure.

- All travellers to Australia need to complete an Australian Travel Declaration at least 72 hours prior to their flight. Travellers aged 15 years and over need to complete their own declaration form. Children under 15 can be included on a parent's form. Each declaration is only valid for one entry for the traveller named on the declaration.

- All travellers, other than those on quarantine-free flights from New Zealand, are subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine at designated facilities at their port of arrival.

AUSTRALIA

◊ Entry is suspended for all nationalities, other than the following exempt categories: Australian citizens and Australian Permanent Residents, and their close family members; New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members; diplomats holding a subclass 995 visa; travellers transiting Australia for 72 hours or less; airline or maritime crew, those recruited under the government-approved Seasonal Worker Program or Pacific Labour Scheme; and holders of a Business Innovation and Investment (subclass 188) visa.

◊ Individual travel restriction exemptions may be granted for:

- Foreign nationals travelling at the invitation of the Australian Government or a state or territory government authority for the purpose of assisting in the COVID-19 response

- Those providing critical or specialist medical services (incl. air ambulance, medical evacuations and delivering critical medical supplies)

- Foreign nationals with critical skills or working in a critical sector in Australia

- Foreign nationals sponsored by an employer to work in Australia in an occupation on the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List (PMSOL);

- Foreign nationals whose entry would otherwise be in the national interest, supported by the Australian government or a state or territory government authority;

- Military personnel, including those who form part of the Status of Forces Agreement, Commonwealth Armed Forces, Asia Pacific Forces and Status of Armed Forces Agreement;

- Students completing year 11 and 12, with support from the relevant state and territory government;

- Those travelling for compassionate and compelling reasons including, but are not limited to, needing to travel due to the death or critical illness of a close family member.

◊ Visitor visa applicants whose previous Visitor (subclass 600) visa expired, or will expire, while outside Australia between 20 March 2020 and 31 December 2021 will be eligible to apply for a Visitor visa withiout paying the visa application charge. The change will come into effect in early 2021.

- Eligible visitor visa applicants outside of Australia will be able to apply for a Visitor (subclass 600) visa in the Tourist, Business Visitor, Sponsored Family or Approved Destination Status

streams with a nil visa application charge until 31 December 2022.

- The provision includes current and previous visitor visa holders who were unable to travel to Australia for initial entry, as well as those who had travelled and departed but were unable to return on a multiple entry visa due to the impact of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

◊ A visa and an exemption must be obtained in advance of travel.

◊ Applications for exemptions must be submitted online at least two weeks, but not more than three months, prior to the intended travel. If the exemption is granted, evidence of the exemption decision must be presented at the airport. If an exemption is not granted, entry to Australia is not possible.

◊ Travellers must print and complete a COVID-19 Declaration form and present it at airline check-in at the airport, otherwise they may not be able to board the plane.

◊ All international visitors are encouraged to depart if it is possible to do so. Travellers may be able to re-enter Australia if they meet entry conditions.

◊ Australian citizens and permanent residents cannot travel overseas due to COVID19 restrictions, unless they meet certain exemptions. Alternatively, they can submit an online exit request.

◊ Temporary workers who were granted a Working Holiday or Work & Holiday visa and it expired or will expire between 20 March 2020 and 31 December 2021 and who were unable to enter Australia because of COVID-19 travel restrictions may be able to receive a VAC waiver for a future visa application. Applications with a VAC waiver for working holiday makers will be available in mid-2021 and the new visa must be applied for before the end of 2022. Those who cannot re-apply for such visas due to reaching the age limit, will receive a refund.

◊ Those whose temporary work visa is expiring, are not working in a critical sector, are unable to return home because of entry restrictions and can't meet the requirements for another visa, may apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic event visa.

◊ Visitor visa holders should apply for a new visa before their current visa expires to maintain their lawful status in Australia. If a visitor has a "No Further Stay" condition on their visa (including 8503, 8534 or 8535) and less than two months' validity remaining, they can request a waiver of this condition to allow them to lodge a new visa application.

AZERBAIJAN

◊ Restrictions on travelling to and from Azerbaijan by air and land are extended until 1 June 2021. Exceptions exist for special flights to and from certain destinations for citizens and residents of Azerbaijan, holders of work and study permits for Azerbaijan, and their immediate families.

◊ Entry to Azerbaijan is suspended for all non-resident foreign nationals.

◊ Mutual visits of Azerbaijani and Russian citizens have been temporarily suspended.

◊ All travellers must submit a negative COVID-19 test certificate dated within 48 hours prior to arrival. 14 or 21 day quarantine at a designated government facility may apply.

◊ Visa issuance (including electronic visa registration service, e.g. ASAN) is suspended.

◊ Foreign nationals wishing to visit Azerbaijan are must apply for the relevant visa through the relevant local Azerbaijani embassies and consulates.

BANGLADESH

◊ All travel to and from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, India, Iran, Mongolia, Oman, South Africa and Tunisia is banned with the exception for Bangladeshi citizens holding a special permission (a 14-day institutional quarantine is mandatory).

◊ Inbound travel from Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Italy, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Uruguay is banned. Exception apply to those holding prior permission (a 14-day institutional quarantine is mandatory).

◊ Travel to and from all countries not mentioned above is permitted (a 14-day home quarantine is mandatory).

◊ All inbound travellers must present negative results of an RT-PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival.

◊ Visa on arrival is suspended with exceptions for merchant seamen and business travellers with an onward/return ticket and a confirmation letter issued by the Bangladesh Board of Investment (BOI).

◊ All passengers must submit a Health Declaration Form and a Passenger Locator Form (provided on the plane), and may be subject to additional health screening measures on arrival at the airport.

◊ All foreign nationals aged 10 and above, arriving in Bangladesh must submit a medical certificate (with English translation), obtained within 72 hours of travel, indicating they are COVID-19 negative, irrespective of COVID-19 vaccination.

BRAZIL

◇ All airports are now permitted to handle international flights. International flights to Brazil originating in or passing through the United Kingdom, South Africa and India are suspended. Entry is suspended for foreign travelers coming from or passing through the United Kingdom, South Africa and India in the last 14 days.

◇ Passengers are not allowed to enter until 29 July 2020 by road or other land or waterway transport with the following exceptions :

- Nationals and residents of Brazil;

- Foreign employees of the Brazilian government or international organizations or those authorized to enter Brazil by the Brazilian Government in the public interest

- Immediate family member or a curator of a national of Brazil. Spouses of a national of Brazil must have a Brazilian marriage certificate. If the certificate is not issued by Brazil, it must be apostilled by a consulate. A non-official translation in Portuguese is also required.

- Passengers traveling on business;

- Merchant seamen;

◇ The above mentioned restrictions do not prevent foreign nationals from entering the country by air, provided that the migratory requirements appropriate to their condition are complied with, including having a valid entry visa, when required by Brazilian legal system.

◇ Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative Coronavirus (COVID-19) test result (not appliable to nationals and residents of Brazil & merchant seamen).

◇ All travellers to Brazil are required to complete aTravelers Health Declaration form within 72 hours of boarding.

◇ Passengers must arrive at one of the following airports: Brasilia DF (BSB), Rio de Janeiro (GIG), Sao Paulo Guarulhos (GRU), Sao Paulo Viracopos (VCP).

CAMBODIA

◊ Visa exemption and the issuance of tourist visa, e-visa and visa on arrival is suspended for all foreign nationals until further notice.

◊ Entry for foreign nationals is only possible with a consular visa issued abroad.

◊ Effective 12 December, all travellers arriving in Cambodia must present a certificate of a negative result of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to travel, take a further test upon arrival and undergo mandatory quarantine for a full 14 days.

CAMEROON

◊ All land, sea and air borders are closed until further notice.

◊ International and commercial passenger flights are suspended until further notice.

CANADA

◊ All flights from India and Pakistan to Canada are suspended. Passengers departing India or Pakistan to Canada via an indirect route will need to obtain a negative COVID-19 pre-departure test result from a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.

◊ All travellers entering Canada by air, land or sea, are required to submit their travel and contact information, including a suitable quarantine plan via ArriveCAN app before crossing the border or boarding a flight.

◊ All travellers arriving by air (some limited exemptions apply) must:
   - Take a COVID-19 test on arrival at their own cost. A test must be taken before leaving the airport. Another test must be taken towards the end of their 14-day quarantine period.
   - Reserve a room in a Government of Canada approved hotel for 3 nights at their own cost. The list of hotels can be found here.

◊ All travellers arriving by land are required to:
   - To take a COVID-19 molecular test on arrival and another towards the end of their 14-day quarantine period, OR
   - Submit a proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken in the United States within 72 hours before departure, OR a positive test taken 14-90 days prior to arrival.

◊ IEC programme has resumed. However, applicants for the Working holiday visa are required to have a valid job offer in order to receive an invitation to apply.

◊ Canada VFS centres in most countries operate with limited services. Those applicant's who are not able to provide their biometrics within the deadline (90 days from the Biometrics instruction letter) , should not worry about their application being refused or closed. Once the VFS centre in their location opens, they will be able to submit their biometrics (after making an appointment).

◊ Entry for foreign travellers (including travellers from the US) is not permitted until 21 May 2021. Exceptions exist for:

- Immediate family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents if entering to be with an immediate family member for a period of at least 15 days;
- Extended family members of Canadian citizens and permanent residents if entering to be with an immediate family member for a period of at least 15 days;
- Foreign nationals entering for compassionate reasons who have authorisation from the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Certain essential and emergency service workers and transport crew members;
- Temporary foreign workers currently living in Canada with a valid work permit;
- Some international students;
- Some people who have been approved to become a permanent resident of Canada, but who are not yet permanent residents;
- Temporary foreign workers coming to work in Canada for the first time to begin work, with a valid work permit or work permit approval letter and proof of employment at an operating Canadian business;
- Immediate family members with written authorization from IRCC to reunite with a temporary resident of Canada
- Any person who does not pose a significant harm to public health, in the opinion of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and who will provide an essential service while in Canada;
- Any person whose presence in Canada is in the national interest
- Any person who is coming at the invitation of the Minister of Health for the purpose of COVID-19 assistance;
- Any person whose purpose is to make medical deliveries;
- Transiting passengers (must remain in the secure transit area of a Canadian airport to complete their connection);
- Members of the Canadian forces, Accredited diplomats and their immediate family members, Air and marine crew members
- French citizens who live in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and have been in only Canada, the US or Saint-Pierre and Miquelon during the 14 days before the day they seek to enter Canada.

◊ All international passenger flights must arrive through one of four approved airports - e.g. Calgary (YYC), Montreal (YUL), Toronto (YYZ) or Vancouver (YVR). Those entering Toronto (YYZ) are subject to a Covid-19 test upon arrival.

CHINA

◊ Effective 15 March, an ease of visa restrictions for applicants who have proof of vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine produced in China has been introduced. Certain Chinese embassies (Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Cambodia, Denmark, East Timor, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macau, Malta, Micronesia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam) have announced that:

- Letter of Invitation (PU), an Invitation Letter (TE) or an Invitation Verification Notice issued by the foreign affairs office or department of commerce of the provincial government or the headquarters of a state-owned enterprise is not needed for those applicants;

- Foreign family members of Chinese citizens or permanent residents of China, including spouses, parents, children and other close relatives living together (siblings, grandparents and grandchildren), can now submit visa applications for the purposes of reuniting with family, taking care of elderly, visiting relatives, attending funerals or visiting critically ill relatives, whereas this entry exception was not previously available.

- Holders of valid APEC business travel cards can now apply for an M visa. The riginal valid APEC business travel card and the invitation letter issued by the inviting party in China shall be presented in order for the M visa to be applied for.

- The requirements for COVID-19 testing and the quarantine requirements in the relevant destination cities will still apply.

◊ Effective 1 March, South Africa is added to the list of countries from which the entry of foreign nationals is banned.

◊ Entry to China is suspended for all foreign nationals, with the exception of certain holders of valid business or humanitarian visas issued after 28 March 2020, valid residence permits for work, family reunion or personal matters.

◊ All visa waiver programs are suspended (entry with diplomatic, service, courtesy or C (crew) visas is not affected).

◊ Foreign nationals coming to China for necessary economic, trade, scientific or technological activities or out of emergency humanitarian needs may apply for visas at the local Chinese embassies or consulates.

◊ Companies in China are allowed to apply for an M visa invitation letter ("PU Letter"), for a maximum stay of 180 days, for essential foreign workers performing necessary and urgent economic, trade, scientific or technological activities. If the invitation letter is approved and issued, the foreign national can apply for an M visa at the relevant Chinese consulate.

◊ Foreign nationals holding valid residence permits (including for work, family reunion, or personal purposes) are permitted to enter China without the need of a new visa.

◊ Entry for the nationals of Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Ukraine and United Kingdom is temporarily suspended.

◊ All travellers are required to present BOTH: a negative COVID-19 NAT/PCR test certificate AND a negative IgM antibody test certificate, from tests taken within 48 hours of boarding, in order to obtain a QR Code with "HDC"/"HC" mark or a Certified Health Declaration Form.

◊ Quarantine requirements differ in the different major Chinese cities.

CUBA

◊ International commercial and charter flights to Havana are suspended (it is expected that they will resume in November). Havana airport is open for humanitarian and repatriation flights and cuban citizens and foreign nationals with valid permanent residence may be able to enter on these flights. The passengers on flights to Havana are subject to 14-day self-quarantine.

◊ Cayo Coco and Varadero airports have resumed international commercial and charter flights.

◊ All travellers must complete a health declaration form with their accommodation details, obtain COVID-19 health insurance and undergo a free PCR test on arrival.

EGYPT

◊ All travellers over the age of 6, including Egyptian nationals, arriving at all airports must submit a printed negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate, in English or Arabic. The test must be taken at most 72 hours before arrival. Exemption is set for those transiting.

◊ For passengers travelling from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Thailand, North and South America, Canada, London Heathrow, Paris, and Frankfurt, the COVID-19 PCR test can be conducted up to 96 hours before their departure on their final direct flight to Egypt.

◊ All travellers are required to show proof of health insurance.

ETHIOPIA

◊ Effective 7th June, all travellers entering, exiting or transiting Ethiopia are required to present a digital negative COVID-19 certificate. Paper certificates cease to be accepted and only AU Trusted Travel or Global Haven COVID-19 test certificates are accepted.

◊ A negative PCR Covid-19 test certificate, taken no more than 5 days prior to travel to Ethiopia is required for all travellers over 12. This does not apply to travellers transiting through the airport for up to 72 hours.

◊ Travellers under 12 are exempted as long as they are travelling with their parents who have a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate.

◊ 7-day self quarantine is mandatory for all international travellers (other than those in transit)

- Ethiopian citizens may complete their 7-day quarantine at home;

- Foreign nationals must complete their 7-day quarantine at designated hotels at their own expense.

◊ Flights are operational to and from many international destinations. More details can be found on the Ethiopian Airlines page.

GHANA

◊ All passengers are expected to complete an online health declaration.

◊ All travellers must present, before boarding, a negative COVID-19 PCR test result from an accredited laboratory in the country of origin. The test must have been completed within 72 hours before the scheduled departure from the country of origin (first country of departure).

◊ Airlines who board passengers without PCR test results or transport and disembark passengers with positive PCR test results in Accra will be fined USD 3500 per passenger.

◊ On arrival, all travellers are required to undergo another COVID-19 test at the airport at their own expense ($50 Ghanaian and ECOWAS citizens; $150 other nationalities).

◊ Payment for on-arrival tests must be made online. Proof of the payment (receipt) must be shown before boarding. Children under the age of five will be exempt from the airport testing requirement.

◊ Passengers with a positive test result will undergo mandatory 7-day isolation and treatment at a designated health facility or isolation centre, at their own expense (for non-Ghanaians).

INDIA

◊ e-Business Visas, e-Medical Visas, e-Medical Attendant Visas and e-Conference Visas have been restored with immediate effect. e-Visa under the Tourist category is presently suspended.

◊ Incoming international travellers arriving from or via the United Kingdom, Europe, and/or the Middle East will be subject to a mandatory COVID-19 PCR test upon arrival at the airport.

◊ Travellers arriving from, or transiting through within the previous 14 days the UK, Brazil, and South Africa must keep a minimum transit time of 6-8 hours for their connecting domestic flights. This will allow the traveller's COVID-19 test results to be processed prior to their further domestic travel. Travellers who test negative will be permitted to take their connecting flights. Travellers who will not connect to another domestic flight, after undergoing their COVID-19 test, will be permitted to leave the airport and will receive the results of their test from the authorities at a later time.

◊ Travellers will be required to quarantine at home for 7 days, after which they must take another COVID-19 test. If that test is negative, they will be released from quarantine but required to monitor their health for an additional 7 days. Travellers who test positive either at the airport or during subsequent required testing will be isolated in a isolation facility run by the Indian health authorities.

◊ All scheduled international passenger services are suspended until 31 May 2021.

◊ Travellers with a business visa (other than B3 visa for sports) are permitted to enter India via non-scheduled commercial/chartered flights.

◊ Travellers who have visited the UK in the last 14 days must present negative results of a COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 72 hours prior to departure, submit an online health form via the Air Suvidha portal, undergo additional COVID-19 PCR testing on arrival at their own expense AND, if negative, undergo 7-day institutional quarantine followed by 7-day self-isolation.

◊ All international arrivals must complete and submit a self-declaration form at least 72 hours before travel and undergo universal health screening at the designated health counters at all points of entry.

◊ Travellers may be exempt from institutional quarantine by submitting on arrival a negative COVID-19 PCR test, conducted within 72 hours prior to travel; If a negative PCR test result is not presented, testing on arrival at the airport is now available at certain airports.

IRELAND

◊ As of 19 July, Ireland will operate the EU Digital COVID Certificate (DCC) for travel from within the EU/EEA. Passengers arriving in Ireland with a DCC will not have to undergo quarantine. However, passengers with a DCC based on a non-PCR test, or those arriving without a DCC, will require proof of a negative RT. PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before arrival. Children aged between 7 and 18 who have not been vaccinated must also have a negative PCR test.

◊ The following following categories were added to the list of Priority/Emergency cases:
1. Long-stay Join Family Members
2. People travelling for business/employment purposes who have been granted an employment permit by Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment

◊ The visa-free travel ban from all South American countries and South Africa has been extended until further notice.

◊ All travellers who have visited or transited through designated high-risk countries in the previous 14 days are subject to mandatory 14-day hotel quarantine. Countries included on this list are: Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bonaire, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, DR Congo, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, French Georgia, Guiana, Guyana, India, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Turkey, the Territory of the Wallis and Futuna Islands, United Arab Emirates, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

- This 14 days quarantine also applies to passengers arriving from non-high-risk countries arriving without a negative COVID-19 PCR test result taken within 72 hours prior to arrival.
- The quarantine can be ended with a negative COVID-19 test result after ten days.
- Travellers who must reserve and pay for a place in mandatory hotel quarantine can do is here. Emergency nature to protect a person's health or welfare, or to leave the State.
- Leaves during the quarantine period is also allowed for travellers to take a RT-PCR test (no less than 5 days after their arrival). If they receive written confirmation that the result of this test is negative/ 'not detected', their period of quarantine can end.
- Travellers must retain the written confirmation of their test result for at least 14 days.
- In case, their journey began in South Africa or Brazil, the travellers must complete the full 14 days of quarantine even with a negative test result.
- Exemptions from the mandatory quarantine include patients travelling for urgent medical reasons, international transport workers, diplomats, Gardaí/defence forces , transit passengers who arrive for the purposes of travelling to another state, and who do not leave the port or airport.
- Exemptions from the mandatory hotel quarantine requirement apply for people with proof of full vaccination with an approved vaccine from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or Janssen, coupled with a negative predeparture PCR test, Such people are permitted to quarantine at home.
◊ Acceptance of new visa/preclearance applications is temporary ceased. Exemptions apply for some priority/Emergency cases such as:
- Workers or self-employed persons exercising critical occupations including healthcare workers, frontier and posted workers as well as seasonal workers as referred to in the Guidelines concerning the exercise of the free movement of workers during the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Transport workers or transport service providers, including drivers of freight vehicles carrying goods for use in the territory as well as those merely transiting;
- Patients travelling for imperative medical reasons;
- Pupils, students and trainees who travel abroad on a daily basis and Third-country nationals travelling for the purpose of 3rd level study;
- Persons travelling for imperative family or business reasons;

- Diplomats, staff of international organisations and people invited by international organisations whose physical presence is required for the well-functioning of these organisations, military personnel and police officers, and humanitarian aid workers and civil protection personnel in the exercise of their functions;
- Passengers in transit;
- Seafarers;
- Journalists, when performing their duties.

◊ Effective 27 January 2021, in addition to countries who were visa required prior to that date, passport holders of the following countries are now also required to apply for an entry visa or transit visa, as appropriate, before travelling to Ireland: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia (transit visa now required – this country is already subject to entry visa requirements), Ecuador (transit visa now required – this country is already subject to entry visa requirements), Guyana, Paraguay (transit visa now required – this country is already subject to entry visa requirements), South Africa, Suriname (transit visa now required – this country is already subject to entry visa requirements), Uruguay

◊ All passengers arriving in Ireland from all countries must present a negative result of a pre-departure PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival. Children aged 6 years and under are exempt.

◊ All persons travelling to Ireland are required to complete an online COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form prior to arrival.

◊ The issuance of short-stay visas for non-emergency/priority travel remains suspended.

◊ The Registration Office in Burgh Quay, Dublin have re-opened to the public.

◊ Visa-required nationals, currently outside Ireland, with an expired IRP card are required to apply for an entry visa through their local consulate / VFS Global office.

KENYA

◊ Flights to and from India are suspended.

◊ All travellers boarding flights to Kenya are required to:

- present a negative COVID-19 test result conducted not more than 96 hours before travel;

- present a completed Kenya Travellers Health Surveillance form online and present the corresponding QR code to health authorities at the port of arrival.

◊ Passengers may be subject to quarantine restrictions if they are from certain exempt countries or if they are symptomatic. List of exempted countries can be found here.

LAOS

- All international borders remain closed.
- Issuance of visa on arrival remains suspended.
- Consular visa issuance is suspended from any country with COVID19 cases. Exceptions may be granted for mandated experts, public officials, and foreign workers entering the country to work on important and necessary projects.
- All foreign national travellers holding visas must present a Certificate of Entry (Issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs); a completed Health Declaration form AND a 'Fit to Fly' certificate issued no more than 72 hours prior to travel.
- All foreign national travellers must undergo a COVID-19 test on arrival and will be subject to 14-day quarantine at a designated location at their own expense (or a home quarantine if travelling from a country with no COVID-19 community transmission).
- Foreign nationals who are working or studying in Laos will be granted authorization to return home.

MONGOLIA

◊ All borders with China and Russia are closed. All international air and rail services has been suspended until further notice.

◊ Entry remains suspended, except for nationals of Mongolia and for residents of Mongolia, who are direct family members. Those are subject to a 21-day quarantine at designated facilities and an additional 14-day self-isolation.

NIGERIA

◊ International flights as well as the issuance of visas on arrival and electronic visas has resumed.

◊ All passengers must present a negative result of a COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 96 hours prior to boarding (at their first point of departure).

◊ All passengers (including diplomas and children under the age of 10) must register via the online national travel portal. They must complete the online Health Declaration/ Self-Reporting Form, upload their negative PCR test result and make payment for the repeat COVID-19 PCR test on day 7 of arrival in Nigeria (diplomats and children under 10 years are exempt from the payment).

◊ All passengers must download the Permit to Travel Certificate/QR Code, save and print the form for presentation at the point of boarding. A copy of the Permit to Travel /QR code will also be sent to the email address provided by the passenger.

◊ Passengers are advised to bring a hard copy of their negative COVID-19 PCR test result for presentation at the airport.

◊ Passengers departing from the United Kingdom and South Africa must show evidence of having paid for their post-arrival day-7 COVID-19 PCR test.

◊ All passengers entering Nigeria are expected to self-isolate at one location in the city of their arrival until the result of their second PCR test (taken on day 7 of arrival) is known. If the second test is negative travellers can exit self-isolation from day 8 onwards.

NEW ZEALAND

◇ Only New Zealand citizens and their immediate family may travel to New Zealand from Brazil, India, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

◇ Quarantine-free flights between Australia and New Zealand are resuming (there is currently are suspension of quarantine-free travel from Victoria, Australia to New Zealand at least until 10 June). Travellers must: meet immigration requirements; must have spent 14 days in either Australia or New Zealand; must not have had a positive COVID-19 test result, unless they also have written advice from a health practitioner declaring that they are no longer infectious; must not be waiting for a COVID-19 test result. Travellers must complete travel and health declarations before boarding. Usual visa requirements continue to apply for all travellers. Travellers currently residing in Australia who want to obtain a NZ Working holiday visa, are now able to apply for such.

◇ All travellers to New Zealand are required to present, before boarding, a negative COVID-19 result from a test (PCR, LAMP or antigen) taken no more than 72 hours before scheduled departure (some exemptions apply).

◇ Entry is suspended for all non-resident foreign nationals. Exemptions apply for: NZ citizens and residence visa holders (if they have previously travelled to New Zealand on this residence visa); NZ residents with valid travel conditions; the immediate family of NZ citizens or residents, if travelling together with their NZ citizen or resident family member; & Australian citizens and permanent residents who normally live in NZ; aircraft and marine crew.

◇ Exception requests may be submitted via the INZ website. If granted, an invitation will be issued to apply for a visitor visa, or to vary an existing visa (if applicable).

◇ Quarantine for at least 14 days is mandatory for all who are allowed to enter New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND

After the quarantine, travellers must test negative for COVID-19 before they can go into the community.

◊ Travellers to New Zealand must register for a voucher, allocating them a place in a managed isolation facility. The voucher is free, although the stay in managed isolation facilities may not be.

◊ 24-hour transit is only permitted for Australian or New Zealand citizens or New Zealand residents (including immediate family) and individuals who meet one of the COVID-19 travel exceptions. All transit passengers must transit New Zealand in less than 12 hours, must remain airside, and cannot enter New Zealand. They can only transit Auckland International Airport.

◊ Visa waiver travel for tourism or business is suspended.

◊ The suspension of off-shore visa processing for most temporary visas has been extended until May 2021 from the previously announced 8 February 2021.

◊ Temporary workers in New Zealand whose visas were due to expire between 10 July and 31 December will have their visas automatically extended by six months. This includes those visas previously extended to 25 September. INZ will email workers confirming any automatic extensions by 14 July.

OMAN

◊ Entry is suspended until further notice for travellers who have visited, or passed through in the 14 days prior to arrival, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom (exception apply to diplomats, health workers, Omani citizens and family members of these people).

◊ All travellers on flights of 8 hours or longer are required to present a certified negative result of a pre-departure PCR test conducted at least 96 hours prior to the scheduled travel.

◊ All travellers on flights of less than 8 hours are required to present a certified negative result of a pre-departure PCR test conducted at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled travel.

◊ All travellers are subject to a COVID-19 PCR test on arrival, subject to prebooking through https://covid19.emushrif.om. and payment of OMR 25 (includes the fitting of the Tarrasud+ wristband). Children under the age of 15 are exempt.

◊ All travellers must download Tarrasud+ app before arrival and complete registration here.

◊ All travellers arriving in Oman must undergo 7-day institutional quarantine and wear the Tarrasud+ bracelet until they receive a negative test result, which will be sent to the Tarrasud+ app within 24 hours.

◊ The operating airlines are required to ensure the availability of preconfirmed hotel reservations for all travellers on their flights covering the mandatory quarantine period (7 nights at least). Travelers arriving in Oman can book accommodation at any hotel in Oman, or take advantage of the hotels list prepared and updated by the competent authorities for institutional isolation and published via (Oman Vs Covid19) platform.

◊ After quarantining for 7 days, travellers are required to take a new PCR test on the 8th day, if the test result is negative the quarantine period will end. The test results will be available within 24 hours. The test report can be viewed and printed electronically.

◊ I's no longer allowed for travelers arriving in Oman to stay for a period of less than 8 days. Airlines must ensure that there are no travel reservations made to depart Oman before the mandatory quarantine period ends (7 days with negative PCR test result on the 8th day).

◊ All travelers arriving in the Sultanate of Oman are required to have international health insurance covering the cost of COVID-19 treatment valid for one month, except for citizens, GCC nationals, and passengers with free treatment card.

◊ Travellers under the age of 15 are exempt from the tracking bracelet and PCR test requirements.

PAKISTAN

◊ All arrivals must submit a health declaration form online or through the "PassTrack" app within 48 hours of arrival.

◊ Non-Pakistani travellers from Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Eswatini, Ghana, India, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe (known as "Category C" countries) are restricted and only allowed to enter as guided by National Command Operation Center (NCOC) decision.

◊ All travellers aged 12 years and above arriving by air must present a negative result of a COVID-19 PCR test taken within 96 hours before arrival, and self-isolate for 14 days. Exceptions apply for travellers from Australia, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Vietnam.

◊ Travellers may be tested for COVID-19 on arrival and will be quarantined in a government facility or self-paid private accommodation until the test results are processed.

◊ Visas held by foreign nationals in Pakistan, which expired after 15 March, re-extended until 30 June.

RUSSIA

◊ The suspension of flights between Russia and the UK is lifted. As of 10 June, the suspension of flights will be lifted between Russia and Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mauritius and Morocco, as well as charter flights with Albania.

◊ All foreign national entering for the purpose of work are now allowed to Russia. The employer must apply to Rostrud for FSB entry permission.

◊ Flights between Russia and the UK are suspended until 1st June 2021. The situation will continue to be reviewed. Passengers arriving from the UK are subject to 14-day selfisolation.

◊ The entry restrictions has now been lifted for citizens and permanent residents of the "green list" countries: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Qatar, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam. These individuals are eligible to obtain invitations and visas of all types.

◊ E-visa issuance is suspended until further notice.

◊ Travellers entering or transiting the Russian Fed. must have a printed medical certificate with a negative Covid-19 PCR test result issued at most 72 hours before arrival. The certificate must be in either Russian or English. A notarized translation to Russian is accepted. If it is impossible to present test results in English or Russian language, they can be issued in the official language of the country where the medical institution is registered. In this case the translation must be certified by a Russian consular officer.

◊ Before crossing the border, foreign nationals are required to complete the questionnaire for arrivals. A questionnaire example is available on the official website of Rospotrebnadzor.

◊ 14-day quarantine is still required for all arrivals.

SAUDI ARABIA

◊ Unvaccinated travellers entering Saudi Arabia are subject to a PCR test on arrival, a 7-day quarantine in government-approved facilities and another PCR test on the 6th day after arrival. Fully vaccinated or recovered travellers entering Saudi Arabia are not subject to quarantine requirements.Vaccinated travellers must have received two full doses; Recovered travellers must have proof of recovery within the previous 6 months. These measures only apply to foreign residents, government and business travellers and those visiting friends and family but not to foreign tourists.

◊ The entry ban is lifted for travellers from France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. Travellers who have passed through the following countries in the previous 14 days remain banned from entry: Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey. Diplomats, Saudi citizens, and medical professionals are exempt from this ban, but must provide a negative result of a COVID-19 PCR test and undergo a 14-day self-quarantine.

◊ Passengers arriving from a country where a new variant of COVID-19 is spreading are subject to 14-day self-quarantine and 2 COVID-19 tests.

◊ Entry is permitted for non-Saudi nationals holding valid exit and entry, work or residency visas (not applicable for tourist visa holders).

◊ All arrivals (except Saudi citizens and children below 8 years of age) must provide a negative PCR test certificate issued within 72 hours before departure.

◊ All passengers are subject to 3-day self-quarantine at home and must take a PCR test by the end of this period. If this test is not undertaken, the self-quarantine period continues for 7 days.

◊ All travellers must complete and sign a Health Disclaimer Form and submit this on arrival.

◊ On arrival all travellers are subject to a 3-day self-quarantine at home and must take a PCR test by the end of this period. If this test is not undertaken, the self-quarantine period continues for 7 days.

◊ All travellers must download and register themselves son the Tatamman and Tawakkalna apps. They must assign their home location within 8 hours of arrival and report their health daily via the Tatamman app.

SRI LANKA

◊ The restrictions for passengers who have been to India within the last 14 days will continue until further notice. All incoming flights are limited to a maximum of 75 passengers and all arrivals are subject to a 14-day quarantine at a designated location.

◊ Sri Lanka have opened its borders for tourists holding an online ETA. All nationals (except stated in the third point) are now allowed to apply for it.

- It is strongly advisable, before requesting the ETA permission, travellers to check with the airlines who have permission & approval for departure Sri Lanka for any directions and flights availability.

- All ETAs must be applied online. Before applying, each traveller needs to have a confirmed hotel booking (Level 1 hotel for the initial 14 days of stay), pre-purchased PCR tests and a mandatory COVID-19 Insurance Cover. When the hotel booking is made, the hotel should be contacted in order for them to issue a reference number which will be automatically checked with the applicant's passport during the application process. Those who don't follow the fore-mentioned procedure prior to applying for the ETA, will not get approval. Therefore, no re-fund is given fro the same. More information is available at: www.srilanka.travel\helloagain

- On arrival ETA is suspended and such will not be issued to any tourists under any circumstances.

◊ Visitors from Cameroon, Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Ghana, who intend to apply ETA may apply through Sri Lankan sponsor for their ETA from the Head Office of the Department of Immigration & Emigration Sri Lanka.

◊ Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Armenia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Lithuania, Latvia, Georgia and Kazakhstan nationals currently residing in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are allowed to enter Sri Lanka with Tourist ETA for tourism with the following conditions:

- Only the above nationals whose are currently residing in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are allowed to apply for the ETA.

- Travellers who have obtained the ETA will be allowed to come to Sri Lanka only by an approved carrier departeing from above the three countries, subject to the Government health quarantine procedures and Immigration & Emigration Regulations.

◊ Consular issuance of all types of visa has been suspended until further notice.

◊ The ETA-exempt countries (Maldives, Singapore and Seychelles) are temporarily not exempt from requiring an ETA.

TANZANIA

◊ All flights to and from India are suspended.

◊ Those travellers who have been in India in the previous 14 days must undergo an additional rapid test on arrival and are subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine - tanzanian citizens can isolate at home; foreign nationals musty isolate at a government facility.

◊ All travellers must complete a Traveller Surveillance Form and submit it to port authorities on arrival.

◊ All travellers entering Tanzania must present proof of a negative result of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before arrival.

THAILAND

◊ Entry is suspended for all foreign nationals travelling from Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan. The issuance of Certificates of Entry (CoEs) to non-Thai nationals for entry to Thailand from India is suspended until further notice.

◊ Travellers, regardless of nationality or vaccination status, who obtain their certificate of Entry (COE) after 1 May 2021 must be quarantined for no less than 14 days.

◊ The issuance of Certificates of Entry (CoEs) to non-Thai nationals for entry to Thailand from India from 1 May 2021 is suspended until further notice.

◊ Certain groups of travellers are allowed to enter the country. This includes tourist & business travellers, as well as those who own property in Thailand or those who are family members of Thai nationals.

◊ Travel must be via state-approved charter flight.

◊ Foreign nationals must contact the relevant Thai consulate at least 10 days before departure to check the specific requirements to apply for a "Certificate of Entry" (COE).

◊ For the COE application, foreign nationals work permit holders or business travellers may require (among others, depending on the purpose of entry):

- Passport copy;

- Copy of a valid Thai visa;

- Completed and signed declaration form;

- Copy of work permit, WP3, letter of work permission, letter of support from employer, invitation letter for business meetings (if applicable);

- Copy of bank statement;

- Copy of health insurance policy covering COVID-19 medical expenses up to at least USD 100,000;

- Copy of Alternative State Quarantine (ASQ) booking confirmation

- Copy of flight booking confirmatiom

◊ Effective 1 April 2021, the following change will took place: - A Fit to Fly health certificate is no longer required - previously required when applying for a Certificate of Entry;

◊ - ASQ hotel booking for foreign nationals is reduced to:

- 10 days, with two post-arrival COVID19 tests;

- 7 days, with only one post-arrival COVID-19 test, for travellers holding a vaccination certificate (VC) or a COVID-19 free certificate (CFC);

◊ ASQ remains 14 days for foreign nationals arriving from countries with new COVID-19 variants (Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Afri-ca, Tanzania, Zambia & Zimbabwe).

◊ Upon arrival, travellers must present the following documents:

- Valid visa (if required; 45-day visa exemption for British & Irish is now placed);

- Certificate of Entry;

- Declaration form;

- Negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result obtained within 72 hours before departure;

- Copy of health insurance policy which covering COVID-19 medical expenses up to at least USD 100,000;

- Copy of ASQ confirmed booking.

- Completed T.8 Form (health declaration)

- Evidence of ThailandPlus application installation into the entrant's mobile device

◊ Entry is permitted for visitors from any country for stays of up to 90 days (renewable) for tourism, business or investment purposes, among others, with a Special Tourist Visa (STV) obtained via a Thai consulate.

◊ The STV can be renewed twice for a further 90 days each time.

◊ Arrivals with an STV are subject to a 14-day quarantine at a state-approved hotel or fa-cility.

◊ The STV is available until 30 September 2021.

TURKEY

◊ Travellers from third countries who have visited Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa or Sri Lanka in the last 10 days must present a negative result of a COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours before departure, and must also undergo 14-day government quarantine, with a COVID-19 test on day 14.

◊ Travellers from Egypt, Iran, Singapore and the United Kingdom are required to submit a negative result of a COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before travel.

◊ When entering Turkey from other countries, passengers will not be required to submit a negative PCR test result if they submit a document issued by the relevant country's official authorities stating that they have been vaccinated at least 14 days before entrance to Turkey and/or have recovered from COVID-19 within the last 6 months. Quarantine measures will not be applied for these passengers. If passengers departing from these countries cannot submit a vaccine certificate or proof of recovery, submission of a PCR negative test result made maximum 72 hours before the entrance to Turkey or negative rapid antigen test result made maximum 48 hours before the entrance to Turkey will be deemed sufficient.

◊ All travellers to Turkey are required to complete a passenger locator form prior to arrival.

◊ All arrivals into Turkey will be subject to a medical evaluation for symptoms of coronavirus, including temperature checks. Any passengers showing symptoms including high fever, coughing or respiratory difficulties will be required to undergo a PCR test.

◊ Foreign passengers who test positive for COVID-19 on arrival will be required to quarantine at a private hospital. Turkish passengers will be referred to a state hospital.

UNITED KINGDOM

◊ As of 17 May, travellers entering from countries on the "green list" are not required to quarantine. Testing is required before and after travel. The green list includes: Australia, Brunei, the Faroe Islands, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, St Helena, Tristan de Cunha, Ascension Island.

◊ Entry is suspended for passengers who have visited in the previous ten days any country on the Travel ban list ("red list"). All individuals travelling to the UK from a country on the Travel Ban List are required to quarantine in a government-approved facility for at least 10 days. Payment and booking in advance is required for the room and the two Covid-19 tests that shall be taken during the stay.

◊ A limited number of professions will be exempt from quarantine on arrival to enable them to carry out their roles.

◊ Outbound passengers have to declare their reason for travel. Only travellers with a valid reason will be permitted to travel. Anyone who does not have such reason will be directed to return home and may face a fine.

◊ This does not apply to British or Irish nationals, longer-term visa holders and permanent residents, who can enter but are required to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival.

◊ Effective 18 January 2021, all international arrivals aged 11 years and above, including UK nationals, are required to present, prior to boarding, a negative COID-19 test taken up to 72 hours prior their departure.

◊ Passengers are still required to fill in a passenger locator form and be subject to national lockdown restrictions.

◊ Many UK visa application centres abroad have resumed normal operations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

◊ Proclamation 9984, 9992 & 10143 continue to remain in effect, prohobited entry to the USA to travellers who in the previous 14 days have been in the Schengen area, the United Kingdom (excluding overseas territories outside of Europe), Ireland, Brazil, South Africa, China & Iran.

◊ The above points do not apply to US citizens or permanent residents (green card holders) or their family members, as well as to C (transit) or D (sea crewmember) nonimmigrants.

◊ US ESTAs can be applied for but do not waive the entry restriction.

◊ All passengers, including US citizens and permanent residents, arriving by air must present written proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 3 days before travel. Alternatively, travellers can present written proof of recovery from COVID-19 after a prior positive test result. Air passengers will also be required to confirm that the information they present is true in the form of an attestation.

◊ Travellers are also advised to get tested 3-5 days after travel and selfquarantine for 7 days after travel. Travellers who don't get tested 3-5 days after arrival, are advised to stay at home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

◊ Certain additional categories of business travellers (B-1), investors (E-2), academics (J-1) and students (F-1 and M-1), who are applying for or have valid visas or ESTAs, may qualify for National Interest Exceptions from the UK/Ireland/Schengen travel bans, at the discretion of the consulate of application.

◊ US embassies and consulates around the world are struggling to resume routine visa services. Priority is given to the immigrations visas. Those U.S. Embassies and Consulates that process nonimmigrant visa applications are prioritizing travelers with urgent needs, foreign diplomats, mission-critical categories of travelers (such as those coming to assist with the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and workers who are essential to the American food supply), followed by students, exchange visitors, and some temporary employment visas.

VIETNAM

◊ All inbound travellers must now quarantine in government facilities for 21 days.

◊ All inbound commercial flights have been suspended, except for the repatriation flights. Flights from South Africa and the UK are banned.

◊ Experts, investors, business managers, high-tech workers and their family members; and Vietnamese citizens returning home are permitted to travel.

◊ Travellers must still obtain special entry permission and arrange quarantine at an approved hotel or government facility.

◊ Arriving travellers must present a negative PCR test result issued 5 days prior to travel and are subject to a COVID-19 PCR test on arrival and government quarantine period of 21 days.

◊ Travellers must install the "Bluezone" contact tracing app.

◊ E-visa issuance is still temporarily stopped.

◊ Special arrangements are available for short-term business travellers entering Vietnam for less than 14 days, avoiding the normal 14-day quarantine and allowing them (with strict supervision), to perform specific meetings and tasks outside of their quarantine hotel:

- Travellers must present a negative PCR test result issued 3 to 5 days prior to travel.

- The sponsoring entity must prepare a plan for entry, transportation, accommodation, meeting place(s), workplace(s), travel schedule, number of attendees and safety during the work activity and obtain approval from the health authorities.

- Any movement outside of the hotel must be arranged, approved, and overseen by Provincial centres for disease control and prevention. Further, short term travellers must still make a reservation at one of the designated quarantine hotels and are not allowed to travel freely during their stay in Vietnam.

- One designated driver and vehicle must be used, and medical staff must be on hand to supervise the work activities.