

COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Thursday May 14, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to the UAE's Central Bank, the UAE's banking system strengthened its support for the agricultural sector in the first quarter of 2020 by providing financing valued at more than AED 500 million to agricultural projects. (Link)• The UAE has unveiled a two-phase plan to reopen the country's economy and strengthen it in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The first stage of the plan, which is focused on the short-term, includes the gradual reopening of businesses supported by a stimulus. The second phase is designed to accelerate recovery and advance growth with a high focus on the digital economy. (Link)• National Bonds has announced a contribution AED 700,000 to the Community Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19 to support efforts to mitigate the health, economic and social repercussions on the pandemic. (Link)
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On May 13, the UAE saw 725 new cases (-7.4% from the previous day) of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 20,386 total confirmed cases. (Link)• As of May 13, the UAE has conducted a total of 1.5 million coronavirus tests. (Link)• Dubai is launching three clinics to collect convalescent plasma from recovered coronavirus patients. (Link)• The Dubai Health Authority has banned the use of rapid viral tests for the coronavirus due to the inaccuracies of test results. The test is said to give false negative and false positive results and only has a 30 percent accuracy rate. (Link)• The Abu Dhabi Emergency Crisis and Disasters Committee for the coronavirus has inaugurated a field hospital at Al Razeen as part of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's field hospital initiative. (Link)
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emirates has announced its plan to operate scheduled flight services from the 21st of May to nine destinations – London, Frankfurt, Paris, Milan, Madrid, Chicago, Toronto, Sydney and Melbourne. (Link)
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than 200 hundred doctors in Dubai have been granted a 10 year golden residency visa for their work to protect the emirate against the coronavirus. (Link)• The General Command of Sharjah Police announced that driving schools will reopen for training, testing and licensing after the Eid Al Fitr holiday. (Link)