

# COVID-19 Update – United Arab Emirates

Friday March 27, 2020

Category	Recent Developments
Economic Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Federal Cabinet has approved a resolution to set up a committee that will address the negative impact of the coronavirus on the UAE's national economy. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>DMCC Announces support package for businesses to boost the UAE economy. The package will include a range of discounts and waivers. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Nakheel pledges AED 230 million economic relief package for customers. The package includes free rental periods for retail and hospitality partners who operate within Nakheel malls. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>UAE cabinet has approved a temporary reduction in the water and electricity bill of shopping malls, commercial shops, hotels, hotel apartments and factories by 20 percent for 3 months starting in April. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The Abu Dhabi Government has unveiled 17 financial initiatives in cooperation with Abu Dhabi's local banks to reduce finance-related costs, facilitate ease of access to financing and maintain the resilience of the Abu Dhabi economy. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>The UAE has launched the Fund of the United Arab Emirates: Homeland of Humanity, in an effort to unify national efforts to combat the coronavirus. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank has pledged to donate AED 25 million to the Ma'an 'Together We Are Good' programme that is aimed at encouraging financial and in-kind contributions from individuals and companies to support the community during the coronavirus outbreak. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Health & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health Prevention and the Ministry of Interior have announced the implementation of a 'National Disinfection Programme', which will aim to completely sterilize all public utilities and public transportation over this weekend. Individuals are discouraged from going out past 8 p.m. each night until 6 a.m. each morning until Sunday March 29. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>64 individuals have been referred to the Public Prosecution office for violating their legally mandated 14-day home quarantines. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>"Shield Hand Sanitizing Gel" has been placed on a recall list and the Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology has warned against its use due to the high levels of methanol, a substance dangerous to public health. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>One Expo 2020 staff member has been infected with the coronavirus. The event organizers are now taking precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways announced that it has suspended all flights from or to Abu Dhabi for an initial period of two weeks. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>UAE will be arranging flights home for UAE citizens who are in the United States and wish to return to the UAE. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>
Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Interior has announced that starting Sunday March 29, motorists whose driver's license expire over the next three months may renew their driver's license using</li> </ul>

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	<p>smart applications without the need for an eye exam settling unpaid fines or black points. <a href="#">(Link)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources will activate the Remote Work System for all ministries, authorities, and federal institutions effective March 29, 2020 for a renewable period of two weeks. Vital sectors such as energy, telecommunications, health, education and others are barred from this decision. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The National Media Council has decided to allow a maximum of 30 percent of the workforce for each non-governmental media outlet to work across the day during the disinfection period (March 26 – 29). <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai’s Supreme Committee of Crisis and Disaster Management has launched a website for people to request permission to leave their homes during the National Sterilisation Program <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Anyone violating preventive measures and instructions given by the government to contain the spread of the coronavirus will be fined no less than AED 500 and not more than AED 50,000. Repeat offenders will see their fines doubled. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai Municipality has closed all external customer centers including its Twar, Hatta, Al Kifaf and Al Manara centers. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Microsoft team applications, Zoom and Blackboard applications now work in the UAE. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority has lifted restrictions on these applications in an effort to support distance learning and working from home arrangements. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Ministry of Justice has announced that the law on combating communicable diseases will now apply to COVID-19. Failure to report contact with an infected person or seeking medical treatment when suspecting an infection could result in fines or jail time or both. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• The Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be suspending its Customer Happiness Centre operations starting March 26 until further notice. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai has announced that all shops, except for grocery stores and pharmacies, must close for a period of two weeks starting March 25. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> <li>• Dubai government entities to work 100 percent remotely as of Sunday, March 29, 2020. <a href="#">(Link)</a></li> </ul>