

# Alert on immigration

September 2020



Following the meeting led by Deputy Prime Ministers Pham Binh Minh and Vu Duc Dam on 8 September 2020, on 15 September 2020 the Government Office announced the conclusion for re-opening international flights between Vietnam and some jurisdictions, which is in principle approved by the Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh has agreed with the proposal of the Ministry of Transportation on re-opening frequent commercial international flights between Vietnam and some jurisdictions.

Highlights of the above announcement No.330/TB-VPCP dated 15 September 2020 are as follow:

## Jurisdictions for re-opening international commercial flights

### ■ **Timeline:**

- √ From 15 September 2020: China (Guangzhou); Japan (Tokyo); Korea (Seoul); Taiwan (Taipei)
- √ From 22 September 2020: Cambodia (Phnom Penh); Laos (Vientiane)

### ■ **Frequency:**

no more than two flights/week. This might increase depending on the actual demand for the flights

### ■ **Implementation:**

on a reciprocal basis with the jurisdictions on (i) the No. of passengers on each flight, (ii) airfares and (iii) other entry conditions

## Subject and conditions for entry to Vietnam for passengers coming from the above six jurisdictions

### **The provincial People's Committees shall:**

The following conditions shall be applied for passengers staying in the above jurisdictions before travelling to Vietnam:

Subject	Covid-19 test by Real time-PCR before entering Vietnam	Covid-19 test by Real time-PCR upon arrival in Vietnam	Quarantine upon arrival in Vietnam
Foreigners holding diplomatic, official passports and their family members	3 days before boarding	At quarantine facility	At official residence, hotel or lodging place
Foreigners being experts, investors, managers, highly skilled workers and their family members; students; foreign family members of Vietnamese citizens	3 days before boarding	At quarantine facility	At factory, office premise, hotel or lodging place
Vietnamese citizens	3 days before boarding	At quarantine facility	Quarantine facility managed by military or hotel, lodging place

Of note the competent authorities shall consider shortening the quarantine period (around 5 days) for the above passengers provided that they test negative to Covid-19 twice during the quarantine period. After the above centralized quarantine period, the passengers are allowed to self-quarantine and undertake medical surveillance at home and office premise. Foreign experts, investors can work as per their accordance with an approved work plan, which strictly follows the medical guidance on preventing the spread of Covid-19.

## Conditions for passengers coming from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries, transit to Vietnam through the above jurisdictions

The passengers continue to be subject to strict procedures to enhance the Covid-19 preventive measures. Specifically, other than the above requirements applicable for passengers from the six jurisdictions, the passengers coming from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries continue to be required to be subject to quarantine for 14 days, except for certain special cases as instructed by competent authorities.

Passengers coming to Vietnam on a short-term visit shall follow guidance of the Ministry of Health in the Official letter No.4674/BYT-MT dated 31 August 2020.

## Other notes

It is noted in Announcement No.330 that the Ministry of National Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will consider simplifying the procedure for visa issuance to reduce the timeline to around three days. In addition, the Ministry of Transportation and Vietnam Aviation Association are also to adjust their air-ticket issuing procedure, which requires the passengers to provide personal details, a Covid-19 test certificate with negative result and hold a valid visa before being able to buy an air-ticket.

### KPMG notes

To support the recovery of the economy, Vietnam will soon re-open international flights to certain destinations as set out above. As such, foreign experts in those destinations should consider the above requirement of the competent authorities for planning their travel. In addition, passengers coming from a third country should also consider the quarantine requirements and transit possibility in those destinations to arrange a flight to Vietnam after completion of the approval procedures.

It is noted that the Vietnamese competent authorities will soon provide further guidance to implement the above announcement of the Government Office. Therefore, sponsoring organisations should always stay up to date with the new guidelines of the authorities to adjust their mobility plans accordingly.

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