

Alert on immigration

July 2020

As of 14 July 2020, Vietnam's Ministry of Health informed a total of 373 cases of Covid-19 where 95% of affected patients have recovered and no dead recorded. Further, Vietnam has no new community infected case for nearly 3 months and has set up a nationwide new-normal-operation. In terms of the economy, Vietnam reported a 1.81 percent GDP growth in the first half of 2020, which is the lowest since 2011 as advised by the General Statistics Office.

To dampen the economic impact while remain safe from the second wave of Covid-19, which is very complicated worldwide, the Government Office ("GO") announced on 12 July 2020, through its Announcement No.238/TB-VPCP, certain measures to simulate the economic growth and facilitate the entry of foreign investors, technical experts, high-skilled workers, business managers, officers (so called "foreign experts"), their family members as well as foreign students studying in Vietnam.

Entry permit and immigration clearance

- In addition to the continuance of acceptance for foreign experts to enter Vietnam, it is a highlight in the Announcement that the GO also allows the entry of foreign experts' family members (limited to parents, spouse and children) as well as foreign students studying in Vietnam
- The above-mentioned foreigners are required to complete all the approval procedures before entering Vietnam and must be subject to suitable compulsory quarantine as well as a Covid-19 test after arrival
- The Ministry of Health shall provide guidance on implementation of suitable compulsory quarantine for those expatriates
- The Ministry of Public Security shall formalize the procedures to meet the Covid-19 prevention of the Ministry of Health and suitable to the above expatriates
- The Ministry of Education and Training shall provide instruction for the universities to prepare procedures to receive international students to come to Vietnam to study

Medical quarantine

- The competent authorities shall consider providing more compulsory quarantine facilities to meet the need for at least additional 10,000 people
- The Ministry of National Defense is responsible to supervise the implementation of Covid-19 prevention procedures at quarantine facilities, including civil quarantine facilities
- Hanoi and Hochiminh People Committee are required to co-operate with the competent authorities to list hotels/facilities used for isolation for preventing/combating Covid-19 and to provide to the Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Defense to supervise as well as to facilitate the quarantine at the cities.

Re-opening international flights

- The GO agrees to resume air-transportation between Vietnam and China with specific conditions and frequency as mutually agreed between Vietnam and China competent authorities
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-operates with the Ministry of Transportation and other relevant authorities to work with competent authorities of other countries to re-open international flights between Vietnam and those countries; receiving Vietnamese citizens from the hubs, specifically Seoul (Korea), Tokyo (Japan), Taiwan, Guangzhou (China), Vientiane (Laos), Phnom Penh (Cambodia).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs to inform overseas Vietnamese citizens on the plan to receive the citizens from the hubs back to Vietnam.

Other notes

In consideration of the situation of preventing and combating Covid-19 in Vietnam as well as in overseas, the Government has approved the proposal to re-open international flights to certain jurisdictions in Asia. Specifically, Vietnam will re-open pilot flights between three international airports in Vietnam (i.e. Noi Bai international airport in Hanoi, Da Nang international airport in Danang and Tan Son Nhat international airport in Hochiminh City) to the following destinations in mid July 2020:

1. Guangzhou- China
2. Taiwan
3. Seoul- Korea
4. Tokyo- Japan

Passengers for the flights shall be overseas Vietnamese citizens, foreign investors, technical experts, high-skilled workers, business managers, officers and their family members. Expatriates holding passports of jurisdictions other than the above can also fly to Vietnam by transiting through any of the four jurisdictions if accepted for transit by the competent authorities of those jurisdictions. They will also need to determine relevant quarantine requirements in the transit location. Of note, they will still be required to obtain all above necessary entry permit and immigration clearance in order to enter Vietnam. Further, they shall be subject to 14 days compulsory quarantine upon arrival in Vietnam.

Vietnam currently provides an automatic extension of temporary stay through July 31, 2020, for foreigners who entered Vietnam with a visa exemption certificate, e-visa, or tourist visa on or after March 1, 2020 and intended to depart Vietnam during the period of extension. Those foreigners may exit Vietnam during this period without having to apply for an extension of stay.

In case foreigners enter Vietnam before March 1, 2020 and being able to prove that they are stuck in Vietnam due to Covid-19, they may be considered for automatic extension through July 31, 2020.

Contact us

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