

Alert on immigration

May 2021

On 05 May 2021, the National Steering Committee for preventing and combating Covid-19 issued Official letter No. 597/CD-BCD on the implementation of regulations related to compulsory quarantine and management after compulsory quarantine and Official Letter No. 600/CD-BCD on the adjustment of compulsory quarantine period, the management after compulsory quarantine period and test conduction to prevent COVID-19. The letters sent to the relevant Ministries and Provincial People Committees highlighted the need for the recipients to strictly implement the management of inbound passengers to Vietnam to prevent Covid-19. Considering such instruction, Provincial People Committees have recently changed the compulsory quarantine period for inbound passengers to Vietnam.

Highlighted below are key points to note affecting quarantine procedures:

1. Adjustment of compulsory quarantine period

The compulsory quarantine period will follow the guidance of Official letter No. 600/CD-BCD dated 05 May 2021. Accordingly, the quarantine period will increase from 14 days to at least 21 days, counting from the first day at the centralized quarantine place or from the last contact day with an infected person. During the quarantine period, the COVID test will be taken 3 times on the 1st day, the 14th day and the 20th day.

2. Adjustment for the period for self-supervision of health after compulsory quarantine period

According to the Official Letter No. 600/CD-BCD dated 05 May 2021, after completing the compulsory quarantine period, people will be required to supervise health at home or residence address for seven days and conduct a further test at the 7th day (counting from the date of compulsory quarantine completion).

3. Management after compulsory quarantine period

According to the Official Letter No. 597/CD-BCD dated 05 May 2021, people after completing compulsory quarantine period have to commit to the following points:

- Implementing measures to prevent COVID-19 and self-supervise their health at home or residence address and actively notifying the local Department of Health after they come back from centralized quarantine place to their home;
- Use the technology applications to manage COVID-19 prevention during the time they supervise their health at home/ residence address;
- Reporting their health status to the local Department of Health on a daily basis. In case of any symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, tiredness, chills, they need to be transferred to the medical center for further instructions under the regulations.
- Not going out of their home/residence address. Where they have to go out for work purposes or necessary tasks, they need to inform the local Police Department and local Health Department and implement strictly 5K measures (mask-distance-not flock-disinfection-health declaration) of the Ministry of Health and avoid crowds;
- In case they have to go to other provinces, the sponsoring Company has to inform the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/ Department of Health at local provinces for their information and further instructions.

KPMG notes

With the above instruction, the period for compulsory quarantine is lengthened for an additional 7 days. After 21 days of compulsory quarantine, the foreigners are also required to self-supervise at their home/residence address for another 7 days. If they go out during such time, the notification to the relevant authorities and implementation of safety measures are necessary to prevent COVID-19.

This additional quarantine time could have a significant impact to business operations and plans. It is also anticipated that the home quarantine period is more closely monitored.

Businesses are recommended to always update with the new regulations and double-check with the relevant provincial authorities to adjust its mobility plans accordingly.

Please contact KPMG for further detail on the above guidance.

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