

Alert on immigration

January 2021

With concern on the spread of new Corona virus variant and the traditional big movement of Vietnamese from within and outside of Vietnam to return home before the upcoming important events and holidays, the Vietnamese competent authorities have recently announced a number of rules aimed at preventing and controlling the risk of Covid-19 in Vietnam.

Highlighted below are certain notable points affecting foreign experts and Vietnamese citizens travelling to Vietnam in the upcoming months:

1. Suspension of flights from countries and territories with the new Corona virus variant

On 5 January 2021, the Vietnamese Prime Minister issued Directive No.01/CT-TTg order to suspend flights from countries with the new variant, namely the UK and South Africa.

Following the Directive, the Ministry of Transport on 11 January 2021 issued Official letter No. 207/BGTVT-CYT which requested Vietnam Aviation Association to suspend landing permission for all flights from the above countries.

2. Suspension of all inbound international flights carrying Vietnamese citizens home in Quarter I-2021

On 9 January 2021, through Official letter No. 208/VPCP-QHQT, the Government office imparted the Prime Minister 's opinion on the arrangement of rescue flights carrying Vietnamese citizens home during Quarter I-2021. Some notable points in the Official letter are:

- Vietnam will minimize all inbound flights until the end of Lunar New Year holiday (i.e. until 16 February 2021). In extraordinary situations, the flight must be considered by the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs, National Defense, Public Security and Transport and later approved by the Prime Minister;
- All passengers must be subject to 14 days quarantine, including short-term visitors unless exempted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The Ministry of Health and the People Committee must strictly implement the procedure of receiving, transporting and supervising passengers during their medical surveillance, after the completion of the quarantine period;
- After the Lunar New Year holidays, the Ministry of Transport will consider re-opening frequent international flights plan.

3. 14 days quarantine mandated for all inbound passengers

The National Esteem Committee for preventing and combating Covid-19 on 14 January 2021 ordered to apply 14 days centralized quarantine for all passengers from outside to Vietnam. According to the Official letter 308/CV-BCD, the Committee requested that all People Committees must strictly supervise passengers entering Vietnam and arriving at the provinces, such that:

- The passengers must undergo 14 days centralized quarantine, which means only quarantine at specific hotels regulated by the relevant committees or military managed quarantine facilities are allowed and all short-term quarantine as well as self-quarantine at home are suspended;
- The passengers must test negative to Covid-19 at least twice before being able to go out of quarantine facilities; and
- The passengers must strictly undergo 14 days medical surveillance after the quarantine period.

KPMG notes

The Vietnamese competent authorities frequently update their regulations on entry and quarantine with no advance notice, depending on the country's evaluation of situation of Covid-19 in the jurisdictions. Businesses are recommended to stay up to date with the changes to adjust their mobility plan accordingly.

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