SINGAPORE – 26 NOVEMBER 2020 (UPDATED DAILY)

COVID-19 Impact



Inbound travel significantly restricted for most travellers.

Likely that only citizens and, in some cases residents, may enter and quarantine measures apply. Departing the country may require government to government negotiations on modes of departure transport and this may apply to local nationals and foreigners. Inter-and intra-city transport options likely to be severely restricted due to elements such as curfews and approval permit requirements. Non-essential services maybe closed with reasonable definitions of essential. Existing security concerns are increasingly exacerbated by the socio-economic pressures of COVID-19 on the systems and/or diversion of resources.



COVID-19 Impact Rating (Domestic Operations): Low -

Business operations are possible with inconvenience due to some restrictions. Most businesses are operating.

Businesses should prepare for medical and/or logistic and/or security factors continuing to cause disruption or workforce limitations. Pre-existing security risks likely to be exacerbated by COVID-related socio-economic concerns and associated pressures in the near/medium term. However, these disruptions should be manageable for the majority. Elective surgery may not be accessible and VERY HIGH and HIGH Medical Risk Rated countries will be under pressure. Core elements of BCPs likely to be active or partially active with robust escalation and de-escalation triggers.

Restrictions

Inbound

Returning citizens, permanent residents and permitted work pass holders are required to self-isolate for 14 days at a dedicated Stay-Home Notice (SHN) facility. They are required to cover the cost of their stay if they left Singapore after 27 March. Travellers who have been to the following countries in the 14 days prior to arrival can undergo their sevenday SHN at their places of residence: Australia (except Victoria state), China, Hong Kong (China SAR), Macao (China SAR), Taiwan (China) and Vietnam.

All inbound travellers are subject to COVID-19 testing at a designated community testing facility before the end of their SHN period. They will receive information about their arranged appointment timings, usually scheduled for a few days prior to the end of the isolation period. Individuals should avoid using public transport to commute to and from the their places of quarantine to the testing facilities.

All travellers (Long-Term Pass holders / Short-term visitors) entering Singapore must take a pre-departure COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before their flight.

Singaporean citizens, Singaporean permanent residents and Pre-Approved Business Pass holders, issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), are not required to take the pre-departure COVID-19 PCR test. Travellers who have been in the following places for the past 14 days are also exempted: Australia, Brunei, China (on non-Air Travel Bubble flights), Hong Kong, Macao, Malaysia (only up to 27 November) New Zealand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Further details on border measures and Stay-Home Notice period can be found here: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/files/SHN-and-swab-summary.pdf (Until further notice)

Approvals for new work pass applications will be limited. Renewal of applications for existing work pass holders will not be affected. For more information regarding work pass approvals, refer to the Ministry of Manpower's website: https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/changes-to-work-pass-services. (Until further notice)

Singapore and China have launched a Fast Lane arrangement to facilitate essential travel for official purposes between the two countries. The arrangement will be first applied between Singapore and six Chinese provinces or municipalities (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang) for essential official travel. Travel for essential business purposes will resume as part of a later phase, with the terms likely being expanded to include additional locations in China. Specific pre-departure requirements can be found at: https://www.mfa.gov.sg/Newsroom/Press-Statements-Transcripts-and-Photos/2020/06/20200603-SG-CHINA-Fast-Lane-Essential-Travel

Travellers from China and Australia's Victoria state are no longer subject to border restrictions, as long as they have remained within those places for at least 14-days. They are required to fly to Singapore on direct flights without transit. Upon arrival they will be tested for COVID-19. If they test negative, they will be allowed to proceed without needing to complete 14-days Stay-Home-Notice. Similar arrangements are already in place for the rest of Australia, New Zealand, Brunei and Vietnam. (Until further notice)

Singapore - Malaysia Cross Border Arrangements

- The PCA allows Malaysian citizens and permanent residents with a valid long-term pass to enter the country via the Woodlands or Tuas Checkpoint. They are required to stay in Singapore for at least three months before they are allowed to return to their home country for short-term home leave. Travellers are required to serve a 14-day stay-homenotice at dedicated facilities and undergo a COVID-19 PCR test upon arrival.
- PCA: Malaysia Citizen / Permanent Resident Employers can apply for the PCA on behalf of their employees using CorpPass. Employers may choose a date of entry within a 60-day window of their application. More details here: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/malaysia/pca/overview
- The RGL will allow the movement of essential / official business between the two countries for up to 14 days. Travellers are allowed to enter via both the airport and land checkpoints. Travellers are required to apply for a SafeTravel Pass, and present a certificate indicating a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken a maximum of 72 hours before departure. While they do not have to serve a stay-home notice, they will be required to take another COVID-19 test upon arrival and must remain isolated in their declared accommodation until they receive the results. Travellers who have been to Sabah state in the past 14 days must serve a 14-day stay-home-notice. Returning Singapore based travellers under the RGL will have to serve a 14-day stay-home-notice at dedicated facilities.
- RGL: All Nationalities/Depending on visa-eligibility
 Persons of all nationalities who are legal residents in Malaysia, who need to make single-entry, short-term essential travel for business and official purposes. More details here: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/malaysia/rgl/requirements-and-process
 (Until further notice)

Travellers who have recent travel history, including transit, to South Korea, within the last 14 days will be required to serve a 14 day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) at dedicated SHN facilities instead of their own place of residence. They will also need to undergo a COVID-19 test before the end of their SHN. (Until further notice)

Travellers who have remained in either Brunei Darussalam or New Zealand in the 14 days prior to arrival will not be required to serve a 'Stay Home Notice'. However, they will have to undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival at the airport and will only be allowed to go about their activities in Singapore after receiving a negative test result.

Prior to travelling to Singapore, visitors from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, New Zealand and Vietnam will need to apply for an Air Travel Pass (ATP) between seven and 30 days before their intended date of entry. They will be responsible for their medical bills should they require medical treatment for COVID-19 while in Singapore.

Returning Singapore citizens, permanent residents and long-term pass holders will not need to apply for an ATP. (Until further notice)

A reciprocal green lane (RGL) arrangement with Brunei is in place to facilitate essential business and official travel for residents from both countries.

More details on the application process and requirements of the RGL can be found at: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/brunei/rgl/faq and http://www.pmo.gov.bn/travelportal/Home.aspx

The Singapore-Indonesia reciprocal green lane for essential business travellers is only applicable for travel from Jakarta (Soekarno-Hatta International Airport) or Batam (Batam Center Ferry Terminal). Further details on the application procedure can be found at: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/indonesia/rgl/requirements-and-process

Singapore and Japan have agreed to launch a Business Track (or Reciprocal Green Lane) to facilitate essential business and official travel for residents from both countries. Travellers will be subject to pre-departure and post-arrival testing as well as the need to adhere to a controlled itinerary for the first 14 days in the receiving country. The two countries have also negotiated a residence Track for movement of business executives and business professionals who are work pass holders. Returning Singapore-based travellers under the RGL will be required to serve a 14 day stay-home-notice at dedicated facilities. Further details are available at: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/ (Until further notice)

All travellers entering Singapore and serving their Stay-Home Notice outside of government-designated facilities, will need to wear an electronic monitoring device. This includes Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents, Long-Term Pass Holders, Work Pass Holders and their dependants. Travellers under the age of 12 are exempt. (Until further notice)

An Air Travel Pass with mainland China and Victoria state (Australia) is now in place, allowing short-term travellers to enter the country without needing to quarantine, provided that they test negative for COVID-19 upon arrival.

For more information: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/atp/overview (Until further notice)

Transit through Singapore Changi Airport (SIN) is allowed for foreign travellers.

Passengers on Singapore Airlines and SilkAir are allowed to transit through Changi Airport only if travelling from selected cities in Australia, New Zealand, China, Cambodia, Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Vietnam and South Korea. Transit from selected European countries is also allowed. Transit passengers, who are not Singaporean citizen or Singaporean permanent residents, and with travel history to India, Indonesia or the Philippines in the past 14 days are required to present a negative COVID-19 test result. The test result should be issued in English, within 72 hours before departure, and taken from recognised testing facilities. Further details can be found on Singapore Airlines' website: https://www.singaporeair.com/en_UK/sg/media-centre/news-alert/?id=kataac8r. The list of testing facilities can be found here: https://www.singaporeair.com/saar5/pdf/travel-info/atb/pdt_test_locations_131120.pdf

The maximum time allowed for transit is 48 hours. those with transit times of more than 75 minutes will be directed to a designated transit holding area at their departure terminal before boarding their connecting flight. Customers will not be able to make any stops along the way, and will have to stay within the transit holding area at all times.

Aerotel Singapore at Changi Airport Terminal 1 and Ambassador Transit Hotel at Changi Airport Terminal 3 are open for bookings. Passengers with a hotel booking will first be directed to the airport's transit holding area for verification checks. They will be guided to the transit hotel only after the checks have been completed and must strictly remain in the hotel throughout their stay.

(Until further notice)

Citizens and permanent residents, as well as long-term pass holders and short-term visitors with valid visas and approval are allowed to enter, provided they comply with the procedure below.

The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority has lifted the visa suspension and resumed the issuance of new visas. Short-term visitors who require a visa to enter Singapore can apply for visas through a Singaporean diplomatic mission or authorised visa agent. However, possession of a valid visa alone does not guarantee entry into Singapore. All short-term visitors must still seek prior approval via appropriate COVID-19 travel channels (e.g. obtain a Safe Travel Pass under Green/Fast Lane arrangements, or Air Travel Pass) before they can enter Singapore. More information will be available at ICA's website (https://www.ica.gov.sg/covid-19).

All long-term pass holders, as well as those who have been granted IPA for LTVP who are planning to enter or return to Singapore must obtain permission from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority before they commence their journey to Singapore. They can do so by submitting their application for entry to https://form.gov.sg/#!/5e3648e9405c180011dc5f9c (Until further notice)

All travellers permitted to enter Singapore have to submit a health declaration form online before proceeding with immigration clearance at https://eservices.ica.gov.sg/sgarrivalcard/ (Until further notice)

Internal / Domestic

Restrictions on activities where social distancing is difficult to maintain remain in place. These include religious congregations, large-scale events such as exhibitions, concerts and conferences. Some entertainment including nightclubs also remain closed.

(Until further notice)

More employees are allowed to return to the workplace. However, they must work from home for at least half their working time, and no more than half of such employees can be at the workplace at any point in time. (Until further notice)Work-related events within the workplace premises that are business-oriented (such as conferences, seminars, corporate retreats, Annual General Meetings and Extraordinary General Meetings) are allowed to resume, for up to 50 persons (or lower, depending on venue capacity based on safe management principles) with strict adherence to safe management measures requirements, such as at least one metre safe distancing between each employee.

(Until further notice)

Large cinema halls (with more than 300 seats) are allowed to have up to three zones of up to 50 patrons each. Other cinema halls would also be permitted to increase their capacity to 50% of their original operating capacity, or maintain the current limit of up to 50 patrons per hall, subject to the relevant safe management measures. Wedding receptions and marriage solemnisations will be allowed with up to 100 people, split across multiple zones of up to 50 persons each. All religious organisations will be allowed to conduct congregational and other worship services for up to 100 persons, subject to safe distancing and safe management measures in place. The government is also considering a pilot to increase worship limits up to 250 persons (five zones of 50 persons for congregational services) and will subsequently release further details. (Until further notice)

Most activities have resumed with strict social-distancing measures in place. While more businesses are expected to resume on-site activities, telecommuting is strongly encouraged for all businesses, where possible. Further details over safety and health management measures can be found at the Ministry of Manpower's (MOM) website: https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/frequently-asked-questions/safe-management-measures

Schools have reopened. Students attending higher learning institutes are expected to gradually return to school premises.

(Until further notice)

Gatherings of up to five people are allowed, while up to five visitors are allowed at the same time in every household. Physical retail outlets can reopen and dine-in at food and beverages outlets are also allowed. However, shopping centres or large departmental stores will continue to be subject to capacity limits.

Most public facilities have reopened. Recreational venues, including sporting and swimming complexes, gyms and fitness studios and function rooms, are open with safe distancing measures. All healthcare services, such as aesthetic, home-based wellness, health screening and eldercare services, may recommence. (Until further notice)

It is mandatory to wear a face mask in public and to check in via 'SafeEntry' in certain venues, including workplaces. Individuals are urged to use the TraceTogether application to further assist government efforts in contact tracing. The government continues to encourage vulnerable groups to not leave their homes as much as possible and for all individuals to exercise personal responsibility, including maintaining only a small group of regular contacts. (Until further notice)

Planned changes and internal conditions

The Indonesian government is currently in talks with the Singaporean government regarding the creation of a Indonesia-Singapore travel corridor.

(Until further notice)

The government is piloting a new business travel pass for senior executives in Singapore with regional or international responsibilities who need to travel regularly for official and business purposes. Travellers on this pass will be required to abide by a strict controlled itinerary when they travel overseas for work. Upon return, the traveller will be given the option of doing a COVID-19 test in lieu of Stay-Home Notice (SHN) and self-isolate until the COVID-19 test results are out. The number of passes will be strictly limited in the initial phase. (Until further notice)

Travellers (excluding returning citizens and permanent residents) who have recent travel history to Malaysia within the last 14 days before entry will be required to take a COVID-19 PCR test a maximum of 72 hours before departure. They must present the negative result as a condition of approval to enter Singapore. This requirement will not apply for returning SIngapore-based travellers under the Singapore - Malaysia RGL arrangement. (Until further notice)

The authorities in Singapore and Hong Kong (China SAR) have established a bilateral travel bubble between both locations. Travellers will be allowed to journey between both locations without the need to undergo quarantine upon arrival. A negative result for a COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours before departure is required. In addition, a COVID-19 PCR test will be conducted upon arrival. Further details on the application process and requirements can be found here: https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/hongkong/atp/requirements-and-process

The travel bubble arrangement was originally set to start on 22 November, but has since been postponed for at least two weeks. The authorities will decide in early December on the new start date for travel bubble flights. (Until further notice)

26 Nov 2020 (Updated Daily)

