

COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries

The COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly. In this update, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides information for migrant workers and their employers on government decisions relevant to migrant workers in Thailand, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

Important Note: Please note that this is only a summary of the information provided by the above governments. Every effort is made to ensure information is up to date, however, as the situation is changing quickly you are encouraged to seek further information by contacting the Ministry of Labour or respective embassies directly.

Updates and Information from IOM Thailand

IOM Thailand developed **Tips for Migrant Workers Whose Job is Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic**, click the links to access it in different languages: [English](#) | [Khmer](#) | [Lao](#) | [Myanmar](#) | [Thai](#)

IOM Thailand is now able to receive **individual donations** through the global website:
<https://thailand.iom.int/donate>

- Individual donations received through this channel will all be used for direct assistance to meet the needs of migrants who are affected by COVID-19 (e.g. food and hygiene items).
- With small-scale funding already received, IOM Thailand has already reached a number of migrants on the ground. With your additional support, we can reach out more of those migrants most at risk.

IOM Thailand is monitoring border movements and providing assistance to migrants and the Royal Thai Government. For updates and to access IOM tools and guidelines related to COVID-19, please check here: <https://thailand.iom.int/iom-thailand-covid-19-response>

Thailand

Extension of stay for registered migrants on Name Lists

Reference: [Cabinet Resolution](#), 15 April

On 15 April, the Cabinet announced a further extension of stay permits and visas for migrants from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam who are on registered Name Lists, to work and stay in Thailand without any financial penalty until 30 November 2020. This decision also applies to their registered dependents, who are allowed to stay but NOT work, until 30 November 2020. Currently there are approximately 555,993 migrant workers registered on Name Lists.

The Ministry of Labour is coordinating with Thai hospitals on health check requirements and with the Thai Immigration Bureau for further instructions. IOM is closely monitoring the situation.

Application form for permitted activities under curfew

Reference: Ministry of Interior, 10 April

The Prime Minister announced a nation-wide curfew from 3 April until further notice, with exceptions granted, including for those seeking medical assistance or those permitted to leave the house by officials due to an emergency (for details of the curfew order including permitted activities, please refer to page 1 on IOM's [#3 Flash Updates](#), released on 3 April 2020). The Royal Thai Government issued further instructions on 10 April,

stating that those who wish to conduct permitted activities during curfew hours are required to submit the below documents to the governor of the respective province:

1. Copy of ID card or passport
2. Supporting documents (eg, medical instructions)
3. Application form ([for Bangkok residents](#) | [for other residents of other provinces](#))

New sectors are eligible to operate under nation-wide curfew

Reference: [Prime Minister's announcement](#), 10 April

The Royal Thai Government has granted permission for employees in the fishing industry, rubber plantations and veterinary clinics to work as necessary under the nation-wide curfew. It should be noted that permission is not automatically granted for these sectors, but requires the relevant authority's approval. To apply for an exemption, companies need to submit the below three documents to the governor of the respective province/s that the company is operating in, on behalf of working employees:

1. Employee card
2. ID card or passport
3. [Application form](#)

New website for consolidated provincial regulations on curfew and border management

Thailand's Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has developed a [website](#), consolidating all provincial regulations on curfew arrangements and provincial border management, in Thai language. On the home page, click on the name of each province and the regulations announced in that province will pop up.

Compensation for COVID-19 positive patients in Krabi province

Reference: [the Governor of Krabi province](#), 10 April

The Governor of Krabi Province has announced a new policy on compensation for COVID-19 positive patients in the province. Effective from 10 April, COVID-19 positive patients who are hospitalized are eligible for 500 THB/day

compensation until discharged. This applies to all nationalities. Infected patients must inform local authorities (Head of Village, Chief of District) in order to receive compensation during the period of hospitalization. At the time of writing, no other provinces have announced similar policies.

Myanmar

Quarantine period extended: announcement of 21-day quarantine in quarantine facilities plus 7-day home quarantine

Reference: [Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports official Facebook page](#)

The Ministry of Health and Sports announced the decision to extend quarantine beyond the original requirement of 14-days. From 11 April onward, quarantine in Myanmar involves 21-days of quarantine in a community-based facility (Government quarantine centres or hotels), plus 7-days home quarantine. This applies to all returning Myanmar migrant workers.

This decision is based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) recent announcement that the transmission of COVID-19 is possible two days before and 28 days after the onset of symptoms.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs instructions on the management of returning migrants

Reference: [Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs official Facebook page](#)

On 11 April, the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced further instructions to manage Myanmar migrants returning from Thailand. As more COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed across the country, and many quarantine centres are still being established, the Myanmar MOFA further encouraged Myanmar migrants in Thailand to follow the Royal Thai Government's orders on visa management, and consider returning after 30 April – the current end date of the State of Emergency in Thailand.

Cambodia

Nation-wide lockdown from 9 April ended at 6 AM on Thursday 16 April

Reference no. 02bb/PM, 9 April

The Prime Minister H.E. Hun Sen issued an emergency order to suspend domestic travel between provinces as well as in and out of Phnom Penh city, starting from 00:00 AM on 9 April to 06:00 AM on 16 April. The Royal Government of Cambodia did not extend the domestic travel ban, which means travel between provinces had returned to normal at the time of writing.

Cambodian nationals in Thailand to follow the Royal Thai Government's orders on visa arrangements

Reference no. 274/20/skb3, 9 April 2020

The Embassy of Cambodia in Thailand has instructed all Cambodian nationals in Thailand to temporarily stay in Thailand and follow the Royal Thai Government's instructions on visa arrangements. This includes:

1. Cambodian nationals holding Thai tourist visas expiring from 26 March 2020 were granted the right to stay without any fine until 30 April 2020
2. Cambodian nationals holding border passes in Thailand were permitted to stay in Thailand without any fine, and must leave Thailand within 7 days after borders reopen
3. The Government of Thailand waived the 90-day reporting requirement for all visa holders who were due to do their 90-day report between 26 March to 30 April.

For those Cambodian nationals who wish to seek further assistance, please reach out the Embassy of Cambodia in Thailand through: +66 092 8050 561.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Nation-wide lockdown extended to 3 May 2020

Reference: 481/PM's Office, 15 April

The Prime Minister has officially extended the nation-wide lockdown to 3 May, considering the threat of COVID-19 further spreading, with 19 cases now confirmed in country.

Lao People's Democratic Republic entered full lockdown on 30 March, with measures prohibiting all residents from leaving their homes except for essential grocery shopping, hospital visits, and any other tasks authorized by the Government, such as for essential work. For details of the lockdown measures, please see page 4 in IOM's [#3 Flash Update](#), released on 3 April.



IOM Migrant Resource Center in Cambodia ready to provide support to migrant returnees during COVID-19 pandemic

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