

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

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 Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

The deadline for medical examination for registered migrant workers as part of the regularization process extended

Reference: [Bangkok Post](#), 8 June 2021

The Cabinet Resolution dated 29 December 2020 allowed irregular migrants residing in Thailand, regardless of their employment status, to register online with the Department of Employment (DOE) to regularize their stay. Details of the regularization process were summarized in [IOM's Flash Updates #26-29](#). As part of the regularization process migrant workers were required to undergo medical examination and COVID-19 test by 16 June 2021. On 8 June 2021, the Cabinet announced **the extension of the deadline** for migrant workers from Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar undergoing regularization **to take COVID-19 test, to 13 September 2021**.

In addition, the Cabinet also extended the deadline for 53,800 migrant workers, who registered with the Department of Employment as unemployed workers, to submit their personal details in the Tor Ror 38/1 form and apply for work permits (pink cards). The deadline has been extended from 16 June 2021 to 31 March 2022.

It was reported that out of 601,000 migrant workers who have registered with their employers and were screened, 496,000 qualified to complete the remaining steps to obtain work permits. Those who did not qualify have to repeat the required pre-screening steps, such as medical checks and tests. As of 31 May 2021, only 239,000 migrant workers were reported to have already obtained work permits from the Ministry of Labour.

State of Emergency extended to 31 July 2021

Reference: [Bangkok Post](#), 22 May 2021

The Thailand Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) has approved the extension of the State of Emergency Order to 31 July 2021 to continue implementing COVID-19 preventive measures in the country.

Restriction measures have been eased in Bangkok

Reference: [The Government Public Relations Department](#), 14 June 2021

On 14 June 2021, Bangkok Governor has issued an announcement allowing certain types of activities and venues in Bangkok to reopen with the implementation of strict preventive measures, including:

- Food shops are open to dine-in until 09:00 PM and may provide takeaway until 11:00 PM; the number of customers is limited to 25 per cent of seating capacity;
- Department stores, shopping centers, community malls, and similar places are open until 09:00 PM, with a limited number of visitors;
- Convenience stores, supermarkets, night markets, and walking streets may open as usual but no later than 11:00 PM;
- Sports venues or places for open-air exercise may open until 09:00 PM, and competitions may be organized without spectators;
- Museums and historical sites are open;
- Tattoo and nail salons;
- Beauty clinics;
- Health and wellness establishments (health spas and health massage); only foot massage is allowed;
- Public parks and botanical gardens, with no recreational activities, except for walking and running.



IOM Myanmar providing transport costs to vulnerable migrants in distressed condition for their return travel to hometowns, Yangon, 9 June 2021.

Suspension of International Flights Operation extended until 30 June 2021

Reference: [Yangon International Airport's Official website](#), 30 May 2021

According to the notice from the Department of Civil Aviation issued on 30 May 2021, the ban on all international commercial flights to and from the Yangon International Airport has been further extended until 30 June 2021.

Myanmar

IOM COVID-19 response

IOM Myanmar continued to provide humanitarian support for vulnerable returnees from Thailand and internal migrants in distressed conditions, reaching a total of 226 (126 Men, 100 Women) migrants during the period from 20 May to 15 June 2021. IOM supported the costs of onward transportation and meals and provided clothing and medical support, in close collaboration with the Kayin State authorities and Rakhine Thaharya Association in Yangon.

Cambodia

COVID-19 situation

As of 14 June 2021, Cambodia has reported 39,464 confirmed COVID-19 cases in total, with 361 deaths reported. The Ministry of Health encourages people to continue complying with COVID-19 prevention measures strictly. For the latest on the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia, please visit: <http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh/>

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Updated measures to prevent, control and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

Reference: The Prime Minister's Office, Order No. 595/PMO, 4 June 2021

Given that the cases of community transmission still persist, particularly in Vientiane, the Government has extended the lockdown related restrictions in Vientiane Capital and other instructions issued by the National COVID-19 Taskforce Committee for another 15 days, from 5 to 19 June 2021. Details are provided on [Centre of Information and Education for Health's Official Facebook Page](#).

Key measures are listed below, with all measures subject to compliance with physical distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures:

- Local and traditional Points of Entry (POEs)¹ remain closed, except for some POEs which are allowed for goods transportation with the Government's permission.
- International POEs are open only for movement of individuals with emergency needs as identified by the National COVID-19 Taskforce Committee. Transportation of goods through international POEs is allowed.
- All travelers, both Lao and non-Lao nationals, entering Lao People's Democratic Republic through the Wattay International Airport, must have COVID-19 insurance and wear tracking device during their 14-day mandatory quarantine. Tracking device deposit is USD 200, and the daily fee for rent is USD 6.
- Scale up tracing of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases in collaboration with local authorities at different levels. Continue vaccination plan for the identified [five target groups](#).

- Entertainment venues such as karaoke clubs, snooker clubs, massage parlours, salons, spa centres, tourist sites, game centres, and sport clubs remain closed.
- Operation of the factories and handicraft businesses in red zones are suspended. Factories which have dormitories and factories which manufacture consumer goods, medications, personal protective equipment (PPE), and medical equipment are allowed to operate as usual with strict preventive measures.
- Travel in and out of red zones² or yellow zones³ as designated by the National COVID-19 Taskforce Committee are not allowed, except for individuals who work in the organizations which operations are approved by the National COVID-19 Taskforce Committee, carry out production duties, transport goods and food, visit a hospital, go for a COVID-19 vaccination with the permission granted by local authorities, as well as for monks who can travel to collect alms.
- Meetings or gatherings of more than 50 people in venues that cannot guarantee social distancing of at least one meter are prohibited.
- All types of social gathering or parties are prohibited.
- Preventive measures, such as temperature check, social distancing of at least one meter, face mask wearing, and provision of hand sanitizer are required at minimarts, supermarkets, markets, and risk areas.
- Essential services are allowed to operate including banks, hospitals, pharmacies, rescue stations, fire stations, waterworks offices, post offices, grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, and restaurants.
- Barber shops outside red zones can open by practicing strict preventive measures and

¹ Local POE is for Lao nationals crossing the border using day passes. Traditional POE is for residents of the area surrounding the border crossing. Residents do not have to present any paperwork to cross the border using traditional POE.

² Red zone is a zone/village with at least one confirmed COVID-19 case which origin cannot be traced or a zone/village with

confirmed two or more COVID-19 cases during the period of last 14 days.

³ Yellow zone is a zone/village with one confirmed COVID-19 case which origin can be traced in the period of last 14 days and/or a zone/village that shares border with the red zone or is reported to be a residence of a close-contact for confirmed COVID-19 case.

physical distancing to avoid having many customers in a shop at one time.

- Restaurants and cafes in areas outside red zones are allowed to open for dine-in with social distancing of at least one meter and other preventive measures in place. Serving of alcohol is prohibited.
- Fishery vessels are allowed to operate along the river at border line from 08:00 AM to 06:00 PM with permission obtained from the local authorities and security forces in advance, and each vessel is regulated and monitored closely by local authorities and security forces.
- Land transportation between provinces with no new community transmission is allowed without drivers having to undergo a mandatory quarantine upon arrival to their destination and ensuring strict preventive measures.
- Passengers who have received two doses of vaccination at least one month ago can travel between Vientiane and other provinces by land and air without having to undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine upon arrival to their destination.



IOM Lao People's Democratic Republic visiting Champasack provincial quarantine centre to handover PPE to support migrants and staff at quarantine centre, Champasack Province, 23 May 2021.

This COVID-19 Flash Update: Government Guidance Affecting Migrant Workers and their Employers in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries, has been produced by IOM Thailand. For more information, please contact ThailandLHD@iom.int

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