

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 collecting migrant worker's biometric data as part of the regularization process extended

Reference: [The Official Royal Thai Government Website](#), 5 April 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 #26-28](#). As part of the regularization process, migrant workers were required to submit their biometric data to the Immigration Bureau by 16 April 2021. On 5 April 2021, the Minister of Labour announced **the extension of the deadline for biometric data collection** for the 654,864 migrant workers undergoing regularization, to **16 June 2021**.

State of Emergency extended to 31 May 2021

Reference [The Royal Thai Government Public Relations Department](#), 19 March 2021

On 19 March 2021, the Thailand Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) and the Cabinet approved the extension of the State of Emergency Order from 1 April to 31 May 2021. This covers a longer period than the usual one-month extension, to cover the Songkran holiday season.

Restrictions imposed to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19

Reference: [The Royal Thai Government Public Relations' Official Facebook Page, 18 April 2021](#)

The Royal Thai Government imposed nationwide restrictions on gatherings and business operations due to the increased number of COVID-19 cases, effective from 18 April 2021 and in place for at least two weeks, including the following measures:

- Non-essential gatherings are banned, and all gatherings of over 50 people require official permission.
- Bars, clubs, massage parlors, game arcades, amusement parks to be closed.
- Schools must suspend in-person classes.
- Restaurants are prohibited from serving alcohol.
- Restaurants in red zone provinces must suspend dine-in services by 9 PM.
- 24 hrs convenience stores to open from 4 AM to 11 PM.

- Fitness centres and gyms are allowed to remain open until 9 PM.

Designated red zone provinces as of 17 April 2021 are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Bangkok | 10. Nakhon Ratchasima |
| 2. Chiang Mai | 11. Nonthaburi |
| 3. Chon Buri | 12. Songkhla |
| 4. Samut Prakarn | 13. Tak |
| 5. Prachuap Khiri Kan | 14. Udon Thani |
| 6. Samut Sakhon | 15. Suphanburi |
| 7. Pathum Thani | 16. Sa Kaeo |
| 8. Nakhon Pathom | 17. Rayong |
| 9. Phuket | 18. Khon Kaen |

Migrant workers' movement restricted in selected provinces

Kanchanaburi, Pisanulok, Samut Prakarn, Samut Sakhon, and Tak provinces have restricted movement of migrant workers in and out the provinces, except in specific circumstances and subject to provincial governors' permission:

Kanchanaburi

Reference: [National News Bureau of Thailand](#), 9 April 2021

The provincial authorities only allow movement of migrant workers working in goods delivery and construction to enter and/or exit the province. Employers of migrant workers in these sectors must obtain permission from the Kanchanaburi Provincial Governor in advance. Note: Permission request form is not provided online.

Pisanulok

Reference: [Pisanulok Disease Control Unit](#), 23 March 2021

Migrant workers and employers must obtain permission from the Pisanulok Provincial Governor for migrant workers to enter and/or exit the province in advance. The permission request form can be downloaded [here](#).

Samut Prakarn

Reference: [Samut Prakarn Provincial Governor Order No. 2002/2564](#), 17 April 2021

Migrant workers and employers must obtain permission from the Samut Prakarn Provincial Governor and receive approval before entering and/or exiting the province. Note: Permission request form is not provided online.

Samut Sakhon

Reference: [Samut Sakhon Provincial Governor Order No. 896/2564](#), 8 April 2021

Migrant workers and employers must request permission from the Provincial Employment Office of Samut Sakhon and receive approval before entering and/or exiting the province. The permission request form can be downloaded [here](#).

Migrant workers entering, re-entering, or relocating to Samut Sakhon from other provinces must undergo a COVID-19 test using the RT-PCR method at their own expense and will only be considered for permission to relocate for employment in Samut Sakhon if their test result is negative.

Tak

Reference: [Tak Provincial Governor Order No. 1211/2564](#), 17 April 2021

Migrant workers' entry and re-entry to the province must be approved by the Provincial Governor. Intra-provincial travel across districts must be approved by Chief of Districts in both the district of origin and district of destination. For inter-provincial movements, approval must be granted by the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee.

Myanmar

IOM COVID-19 response

IOM Myanmar continued to provide humanitarian support for vulnerable returnees from Thailand in distressed conditions, reaching a total of 732 (532 men, 200 women) migrants during the period from 17 March

to 21 April 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 Civil Society Organizations.



IOM Myanmar providing clothing for vulnerable returnee migrant workers in distressed condition at Myawaddy-Mae Sot Check point, 11 April 2021.

Suspension of international commercial flights extended until 30 April 2021

Reference: [Yangon International Airport's Official website](#), 31 March 2021

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

Cambodia

COVID-19 situation

As of 21 April 2021, Cambodia has reported 7,747 confirmed COVID-19 cases in total, with 54 deaths reported. The Government has announced lockdown measures in Phnom Penh and Ta Khmau municipalities effective from 15 to 28 April 2021. It has also extended the travel ban between provinces until 28 April 2021. The Ministry of Health encourages people to continue strictly

complying with COVID-19 prevention measures. For the latest on the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia, please visit: <http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh/>

Announcement on the 4th National Technical and Vocational Education and Training Day

Reference: Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training's [official Facebook page](#), Announcement No. 016/21 KB/SChNPTK, 13 April 2021

The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training announced the organization of the 4th National Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Day 2021, to be commemorated on 15 June 2021, under the theme "TVET for improving skills and gaining higher income". This awareness-raising event aims to promote the importance of TVET and development of a skilled and efficient workforce to meet the needs of the domestic and overseas labour markets.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mitigation measures to prevent, control and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic during the holiday season

Reference: The National Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, announcement No.003/TC, 13 April 2021

The National COVID-19 Task Force Committee announced additional restriction measures to prevent, control, combat and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic during the Laotian New Year holiday season from 14 to 30 April 2021. Details of the measures are listed on [Centre of Information and Education for Health's Official Facebook Page](#). Key measures announced previously are summarized in [IOM's Flash Update #26](#) and [#27](#), and additional updates include:

- All entertainment places including karaoke, bars, night clubs, concert venues, and internet cafés to be closed from 14 to 30 April.

- To prevent COVID-19 from entering the country, the Ministry of Public Security must enhance monitoring of entries and exits through all border checkpoints to ensure that there are no cases of irregular migration.

COVID-19 situation

Reference: The National Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, press announcement dated 21 April 2021, the Centre of Information and Education for Health's [official Facebook Page](#)

The National COVID-19 Task Force Committee reported 28 new COVID-19 positive cases on 21 April 2021. Of these 28 cases, 26 individuals in Vientiane Capital were reported to have had close contact to or visited the same places as 59 people who tested positive on 20 April 2021. Two other cases were reported in Champasack Province, and are individuals who returned from Thailand through regular border crossing points, and are currently undergoing mandatory quarantine.



IOM Lao People's Democratic Republic visiting Wattay International Airport to conduct a Point of Entry (PoE) Monitoring visit, Vientiane Capital, 30 March 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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