

## 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 Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand.

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** published Rapid Assessment Report "[COVID-19 Related Vulnerabilities and Perceptions of Myanmar Migrants in Mueang Ranong District, Ranong Province, Thailand](#)". From 25 July to 5 August 2020, IOM surveyed 164 Myanmar migrants in the Mueang Ranong district of Ranong province in order to better understand their situation and vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey focuses on six thematic areas: 1) Migrant profiles; 2) Drivers of migration; 3) Employment; 4) Impacts of COVID-19; 5) COVID-19 related vulnerabilities; and 6) Return intentions.

To respond to informational gaps facing migrant workers in Thailand, **IOM** has developed the following factsheets.

1. [Tips for Migrant Workers Whose Contracts Have Been Terminated](#)
2. [Tips for Migrant Workers on the Right to Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining in Thailand](#)
3. [Tips for Migrant Workers on the Culture of Thailand](#)
4. [Tips for Migrant Workers on Effective Communication in the Workplace](#)

All four factsheets are available in [Khmer](#) and [Myanmar](#) language.

**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

#### Special measures introduced in Tak province in response to new COVID-19 cases

Reference: Tak Disease Control Committee, [Disease Control Announcement No. 31/2563](#), 17 October 2020

Following the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Mae Sot district, Tak province, including five cases of local transmission and [two Myanmar cross-border truck drivers](#), the Governor of Tak province issued an announcement on the following disease control measures:

1. Movement to and from Madeena, Thung Thong and Wat Luang are restricted unless permission is granted by a Disease Control Official.
2. Religious gatherings exceeding 10 people are not allowed in the following local areas: Wat Luang, Muslim, Ban Thoong, Bua Koon, and South Mae Tao unless permission is granted by a Disease Control Official.
3. Schools and migrant learning centers are closed temporarily from 17 to 23 October 2020.

4. Restaurants may only offer take-away in Mae Sot district.
5. All shops and markets are required to implement disease control procedures, including measuring body temperatures of customers, controlling customers' entry, maintaining physical distancing, and frequently cleaning all surfaces.
6. Pubs, bars, karaoke bars, massage parlors and spas in Mae Sot district are temporarily closed.
7. Social gatherings are banned unless permission is granted by a Disease Control Official.

The penalties for violating the above measures include imprisonment for up to two years and/or a fine not exceeding THB 40,000.

### Ministry of Labour discusses plans to establish a working group on the management of migrant workers

Reference: [Ministry of Labour's Official Website](#), 20 October 2020

On 20 October, the Ministry of Labour chaired a meeting to discuss the establishment of a working group on the management of migrant workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Relevant Government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations, as well as IOM representatives participated in the meeting.

The stakeholders discussed establishing a mechanism for national consultations to strengthen the management of migrant workers during the pandemic. Issues discussed included work permit management, social protection, and improved coordination between Thailand and countries of origin to address the challenges faced by migrant workers and their employers.

## Myanmar

### Stay at home order in Kachin State

Reference: Ministry of Health and Sports, Order no. 129/2020, 19 October 2020

The Ministry of Health and Sports imposed a stay-at-home order in Hpakant and Mohnyin townships, Kachin State effective from 08:00 AM on 20 October 2020 until

further notice. Stay at Home Order no. 129/2020 contains similar instructions to those stipulated by the Ministry's Order no. 107/2020, dated 20 September 2020, which are summarized in [IOM's Flash Update #20](#). Handcraft manufacturers remain open.

Residents who fail to comply with the indicated Orders are liable for penalties in accordance with [the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law, the 8<sup>th</sup> Waning of Pyatho, 1372 M.E.](#)

### Update on safe return arrangements for Myanmar migrants in Thailand

Reference: General Administrative Department, Myawaddy and Department of Labour, Tanintharyi region and Shan state

Between 22 March and 20 October 2020, 123,101 Myanmar nationals were safely repatriated from Thailand through safe return arrangements. For more details on these arrangements, see page 2 in [IOM's Flash Update #10](#).



IOM Myanmar providing humanitarian assistance to returning migrants in distressed conditions, Myawaddy, 19 October 2020.

## Cambodia

### COVID-19 updates in Cambodia

As of 20 October 2020, Cambodia has reported 285 confirmed COVID-19 cases in total, with no deaths reported. The Ministry of Health encourages people to continue adhering with COVID-19 prevention measures. For the latest on the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia, please visit: <http://www.cdcmoh.gov.kh/>

### IOM's COVID-19 response in Cambodia

On 8 October 2020, 55 migrants returning from Thailand were received by the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Poipet, supported by IOM Cambodia, and provided with information on COVID-19 prevention measures and safe migration. Returning migrants received General Department of Identification's leaflets, IOM booklets on safe migration and information on MRC services.



IOM Cambodia delivering 95 hygiene kits and 105 sleeping kits to Kampong Thom provincial COVID-19 Response Committee, District COVID-19 Response Committees and Provincial Health Department for further distribution to returning migrants and community members, 14 October 2020.

## Lao People's Democratic Republic

### New quarantine measures introduced for travelers from countries with no reported COVID-19 cases

Reference: The National Taskforce for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, N. 3053/Taskforce, 14 October 2020

The National Taskforce for COVID-19 Prevention and Control issued new quarantine measures for travelers arriving in Lao People's Democratic Republic from countries with no reported COVID-19 cases effective from 14 October 2020 and valid until further notice. Details are provided on [Lao COVID-19 Taskforce Official Website](#). Key measures are listed below, with all measures subject to compliance with physical distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures:

- All travelers, both Lao and non-Lao nationals, must obtain a COVID-19 test certificate within 72 hours prior to arrival, and must stay at a Government quarantine facility for 48 hours until test results are received. If the traveler's test is negative, the Taskforce will decide if they can undergo 14-days self-quarantine at their home, office or hotel taking into account the situation in the country from which the traveller has arrived.
- Individuals travelling as part of group tours from countries with no reported COVID-19 cases must obtain a certificate from a quarantine facility confirming their reservation of a place at the facility before travel, and a COVID-19 test certificate received within 72 hours prior to travelling.
- Travellers arriving from countries affected by COVID-19 must undergo 14-days quarantine at a Government quarantine facility.

*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](mailto:ThailandLHD@iom.int)*

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