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Country Report (Myanmar) | COVID -19

July 29, 2020 – Update 5

The British Chamber of Commerce will consolidate the various regulations into one document. We can't 100% confirm that all the reports are true and are intended as a guideline only. We will provide updates as and when new information emerges.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

BCCM Members can check the Dashboard of Ministry of Health and Sports and the Situation Update Daily Report [See Here](#).

Government Policy Update For COVID- 19 Precautions

The Ministry of Health and Sport released the Announcement on Extension of the Precautionary Restriction Measures Related to Control of COVID-19 Pandemic until 15th August.

Mandalay Lab Testing for COVID-19 is starting to operate in May. MOHS said that they have enough medical staff and equipment supplied by other countries. Government put in place to test and control about the COVID – 19 [See Here](#).

The Chinese government donated more than K375 million worth of laboratory equipment to the COVID-19 lab in Mandalay and sent a team of health professionals to provide training [See Here](#) .

Testing for COVID-19 will soon be conducted at a public health laboratory in the first week of June in Mawlamyine, Mon State, following the donation of a RT-PCR machine by Wai Aung Gabar Jewellery Company, according to the health ministry. Fifteen samples will be brought from the National Health Laboratory (NHL) on June 2 and we'll start running trials the following day, said Dr Tun Aung Kyi, head of Mon State Public Health Department [See Here](#)

Government Policy Update For COVID- 19 Precautions

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- According to the notice from the Department of Civil Aviation issued on 28 July 2020, the earlier restrictions for all airlines operating international air services to and from Yangon International Airport has been further extended up to 31 August 2020 2359 Hours MST.
- Announcement on Temporary suspension of all types of visas for foreign nationals from all countries visiting Myanmar: [Official Link](#)

Aviation Sector

- The aviation department issued a letter to inform to all airlines operating international air services to and from Myanmar that effective period of the Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID 19 to Myanmar through air travel extended to August 31, 2020. Exceptions apply to “relief flights, all-cargo flights, medical evacuation flights and special flights specifically approved by the Department of Civil Aviation.

- Announcement on Temporary suspension of all types of visas for foreign nationals from all countries visiting Myanmar [See here](#)
- The aviation department said it is carrying out relief flights in the next month for Myanmar citizens stranded in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Bangkok, and India. The airlines available for the mercy mission are All Nippon Airways, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA), and Myanmar Airways International (MAI).
- As the International Commercial Flight continue to suspend at YIA Terminal 1 until August 31, 2020, Terminal 3 (Domestic) remains operational for all the domestic flights. All travelers are advised to observe the precautionary measures at all times in the airport to protect the spread of COVID-19
- Domestic Flights are operating and no international flights to any international airport in Myanmar until August 31.

Quarantine

The central committee has decided that foreign nationals travelling to Myanmar for professional purposes will need

- To show a certificate stating they are free from COVID-19,
- Completed 7 days home quarantine in their country before flying,
- 21 days facility quarantine when they arrive in Myanmar,
- 7 days home quarantine in Myanmar Home After finishing facility quarantine period

MOHS has issued the Guidelines for Quarantine

- Guidelines on Home Quarantine [See Here](#)
- Guidelines on Community based facility Quarantine [See Here](#)
- Guidelines on Hotel Quarantine [See Here](#)
- Guidelines for Community Quarantine [See Here](#)

In accordance with the directive of the Ministry of Health and Sports dated 11th April 2020, for facility and hotel quarantine extending the quarantined period from 14 days into 21 days with 7 days under home quarantine, in total 28 days.

List Allowed by Central Committee for Hotel Quarantine In Myanmar, Estimated Cost - 20,000 MMK per night including meal or 10,000 MMK per night excluding meals meal.

1. [Myanmar Life Hotel](#)
2. [Gandamar Hotel](#)
3. [7 Mile Hotel](#)
4. [Shwe Pyi San Hotel](#)
5. [KC Hotel](#)
6. [City Golf Resort Hotel](#)
7. [Holly Hotel](#)
8. [City Hotel](#)
9. [Summer Palace Hotel](#)
10. [Yangon Airport Hotel](#)
11. [Sidney Hotel](#)

12. [Myanmar Life Hotel](#)
13. [Shwe Pyi San Nyar Hotel](#)
14. [Panorama Hotel](#)
15. [My Hotel](#)
16. [Sky View Hotel](#)
17. [Novotel Yangon](#)
18. [Grand Garden Hotel](#)
19. [Royal Landmark Hotel](#)
20. [Shin Ye Htut Hotel](#)
21. [Spring Line Hotel](#)
22. [Supreme Hotel](#)
23. [Beauty Land Hotel](#)
24. [The Hub Hotel](#)

Can contact the hotel for booking and more information and they can provide guidelines for hotel quarantine.

Notices from Ministry of Immigration and Population and Ministry of Social Welfare

- According to Notification No (63/2020) - Reduction in Social Security contributions no later than 3 months : [Detail Here](#)
- According to Notification No (83/2020) - Social Wage Support Grant of 40% : [Detail Here](#)
 - Online application for Social Security benefits for 40% of salary [more information](#)

- Tips on what businesses can do to benefit Social Security [more information](#)

Guidelines for Prevention and Control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- For factories, workplaces and construction sites [See Here](#)
- For Shopping Centres, Supermarkets and Home Delivery Services [See here](#)
- For Hotel and Motel, Guidelines to Follow [See here](#)
- For Workers' Compensation and Farmers' Break off and Dining ,Guidelines to Follow [See here](#)
- For Restaurants [See Here](#)
- For Offices and Companies [See Here](#)

Additional Updates of Ministry of Health and Sport

According to the Notification of Ministry of Health and Sports on the date of July 29, 2020, Gathering of 15 people is allowed starting from 1 August 2020 for the following matters under the Ministry of Health and Sports' Notification No. (37-2020) dated on 16 April 2020.

- a) Working at the government departments, organisations, companies, factories and workplaces.
- b) Government Schools, Private Schools and Monastic Schools;
- c) Seminars, Meetings and Trainings from the government departments, organisations, companies, factories and workplaces shall be performed in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports;
- d) Eating at restaurants that are allowed by the relevant local government in line with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports;

- e) Working in essential businesses, public services which are mentioned by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population dated on 3 May 2020.

On 18 May 2020, the health Ministry submitted to parliament a new bill aimed at controlling communicable diseases. The bill would update the 1995 Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law, for effective control and prevention of communicable diseases and to carry out actions in accordance with the rules and regulations of the World Health Organization. The old law focused on dealing with communicable diseases within the country. The new law is more modern and puts more emphasis on international public health concerns. [See here](#)

Reopening Business Sectors

The Ministry of Planning, Finance, and Industry (MOPFI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced that K64 billion in funds will be provided to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Myanmar negatively affected by COVID – 19 under a JICA Emergency Program. JICA said on June 1 that it will provide up to K64 billion in low-cost financing under terms and conditions favorable to MSMEs to support the continuation of business activities affected by COVID – 19 [Detail](#)

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on May 3 announced a list of 21 businesses which need to continue operations during the COVID-19 outbreak as they provide either essential, public or necessary services.

The businesses include:

1. State-owned factories and enterprises;
2. Businesses that supply water;

3. Businesses involved in electricity, fuel energy production and transmission;
4. Providers of fire services;
5. Private hospitals, clinics and healthcare service providers,
6. Telecommunication service providers; and
7. Information providers and technology businesses.
8. Transportation;
9. Warehousing and wholesale;
10. Port services;
11. Logistics and freight;
12. Export and import;
13. Municipal services;
14. Banking and finance;
15. Insurance;
16. Toll-collections;
17. Printing and publishing businesses;
18. Mining and resources;
19. Chemical-related firms;
20. Construction businesses;
21. Fisheries

As these businesses will have to continue operating, they need to ensure that they have complied with the health ministry's guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 including having their premises inspected by the relevant authorities, the announcement said.

Some **factories** in Hlaing Tharyar Industrial Zone have now restarted after passing inspections but others are still under inspection, said CEO U Aung Kyaw Oo. There are 29 industrial zones in Yangon Region and some 6,000 factories. [Detail here](#)



According to a local **travel** association, Myanmar tour companies are preparing to organize tours again, which have been suspended since February as part of the government's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Daw Aye Thida Moe, vice chair of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, said tour companies are awaiting government guidelines to ensure a safe reopening of their businesses. [Detail here](#)

The government has allowed **restaurants** to resume operations in accordance with guidelines from the Ministry of Health and Sports. [Detail here](#)

Sixty **hotels** and guest houses in **Mandalay Region** have applied to reopen and will be inspected starting next week, said U Min Naing, Chair of the Myanmar Hotelier Association in Mandalay. [Detail here](#)

Magwe regional government has allowed more than 1000 **factories** to reopen after inspections were carried out on May 22. The officials allowed reopening of about 1000 factories out of 4000 which have been shut down due to COVID-19 outbreak in Magwe Region, according to Daw Myint Myint Thein, region head for Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection. [Detail here](#)

Education : Schools and Universities Reopening in Myanmar

The reopening of private schools or international schools will be decided by township committees in charge of COVID- 19. If the private schools would like to reopen, they can contact the regional government for further more guidelines.

The Government will set the reopening of schools for July 21, starting with High schools and followed by Middle schools and Primary Schools later.

Director General of Ministry of Education said that the reopening of Universities is not certain yet because all students come from overall country. If the basic education is successfully to reopen, the government will be continued to discuss the universities reopening.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has extended the closure of all preschools and nurseries across the country until June 30 to protect children from COVID-19, a senior official said. Daw San San Aye, director general of Department of Social Welfare, said the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, had decided on May 28 to order all voluntary preschools, private preschools, and private residential nurseries to remain closed until June 30. [Detail Here](#)

The ministry has scheduled schools to start on July 21, beginning with high schools and followed by primary and middle schools two weeks later. The Ministry will allow private schools to add classrooms so they can comply with the government's guidelines on social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The rules for private schools require listing the travel history of students and their family members in the past month, the address of each student, and the people with whom they have had contact. [Detail Here](#)

The Ministry of Education has released a National Response and Recovery Plan. In this document, the MOE outlines a plan for the short term, response phase (May to September 2020), for the development and provision of key strategic actions, to ensure education continuity during the closure of school/Higher Education Institutions/TVET Institutions closures.

In the mid-term, recovery phase (October 2020 to October 2021), the plan provides a course of action for there-opening of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) facilities, Basic Education schools, Higher Education Institutions and TVET Institutions, mainly Government

Technical High Schools (GTHS) and Government Technical Institutes (GTI) and for the recovery phase that includes accelerated action to fulfil the objectives set in the NESP 2016-2021.

The plan also includes concrete provisions to draw lessons from the current COVID-19 crisis in order to design evidence informed crisis-sensitive education sector plans as well as emergency preparedness and response policy frameworks at all levels of education to prevent, prepare for and mitigate the different types of risks affecting the education sector. [Details here](#)

Tourism : Requirements to Travel Around Myanmar

- Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfection of Aircraft; [PDF, English Version](#)
- COVID-19 Tourism Relief Plan : [PDF, English Version](#)
- Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism: [Detail Link](#)
- Guidelines for Hotels and Motels which are not involved as Quarantine Centre
<http://mohs.gov.mm/su/pnom6421PN> | MM version
- Guidelines for Community Clinic : [PDF Link](#)

For Domestic Travel

Ministry of Health and Sports released [Community Based Quarantine for Domestic Travel](#) for the following regions and townships.

- Ayeyarwaddy Region
- Tanintharyi Region
- Bago Region
- Nay Pyi Taw Region



- Mandalay Region
- Sagaing Region
- Kachin State
- Kayah State
- Rakhine State

Ministry of Hospitality and Tourism officially permit to reopen hotels: [Reopen Hotels by States or Regions](#)

General Information about Travel Around Myanmar

Ministry of Hospitality and Tourism discusses finalizing COVID – 19 tourism strategic roadmap. The first step of the roadmap focuses on survival and immediate action with the self-finance and stimulus package, the second step focuses on reopening and relaxing of lockdown and quarantine to be implemented within three to six months and the third step focuses on re-launching and will be implemented within six months to a year and includes long-term plans for reinventing Myanmar tourism and relaxing of regulations. [Detail Here](#)

Express buses operating from five terminals in Mandalay which follow the health ministry's guidelines have been allowed to operate bus lines to other regions and states starting June 1, according to the Mandalay Region Bus Line Supervisory Committee (Highway). The buses won't get permission to resume operations if they don't prepare in accordance with health guidelines, said U Aung Kyaw Lin, chairperson of the committee. [Detail Here](#)

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been implementing development of sustainable tourism and supporting safe and secure destinations for convenience of travellers in Myanmar [See here](#)

Trade Gate Closure According to Ministry of Commerce

- The ministry of commerce released notification for the tax exemption related to the importing medical equipment during COOVID-19 [Detail Here](#)
- The Yangon-based highway buses are scheduled to resume on May 15, According to the highway bus operators at the Aung Mingalar Highway Bus Terminal. Currently, just 30 highway bus lines are running, and none are able to travel to long distance locations such as Shan State's Taunggyi, where entry and exit is still strictly prohibited. COVID-19-related restrictions will be in effect until May 15. [Detail here](#)
- **The Mant Wain trading gate in Muse** has been closed since April 5 as both governments take more stringent measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, said U Khin Maung Lwin, assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce. China no longer allows Myanmar truck drivers to cross into Yunan so Mant Wain, which is the main export gate for Myanmar's rice, maize, and pulses, has now closed, he said. Currently, only Chinese drivers who have passed medical tests are permitted to enter Myanmar to pick up goods. [Detail Here.](#)
- The government of India's Manipur State has shut down **the Tamu-Moreh border gates**, a key corridor for border trade between Myanmar and India, indefinitely over concerns about the spread of coronavirus, according to the Security and Border Affairs Ministry for Sagaing Region, where Tamu District is located. The Tamu-Moreh borders gates are mainly used to export products from Myanmar—chiefly betel nuts, beans and other food. Myanmar businesses export over US\$30 million of products across the Tamu-Moreh border gates every four months, according to the Myanmar Ministry of Commerce. [Detail Here](#)



Economic Situations in Myanmar

[Economic Relief Plan 27 April 2020](#)

[Tourism Relief Plan COVID - 19](#)

Loan Eligible Businesses, Announced May 3, 2020

The 20 qualify for funding of more than K100 million of the 200 companies eligible to receive a government COVID-19 soft loan, these included firms in manufacturing, trading and industry. Out of the 70 tourism and hotel-related companies that qualified for financing, just one, Inle Princess, was eligible for a loan of K100 million and above. The remaining businesses were able to access smaller loans. Over 1600 businesses applied for loans under a K100 billion, 1 percent interest government emergency fund set up to help businesses in tourism and manufacturing as well SMEs, including 400 from Mandalay. [Detail Here](#)

The government has approved COVID-19 loans for 88 businesses at an interest rate of 1 percent, according to the Union of Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI). COVID 19 loan approved Business Name [Here](#)