



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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Singapore - Government Announces Framework for Relaxing of Borders

Since June 2020, the Singapore government has taken steps to gradually reopen immigration borders for Long Term Pass (LTP) holders.¹ In order to manage the risks of an outbreak coming from imported cases, travellers have been required to secure entry approval² prior to arrival, and to successfully complete a 14-day Stay Home Notice (SHN) and COVID-19 swab test before the end of their SHN.

Following continual assessments, as certain countries have demonstrated effective control of the virus situation, the Singapore government has updated its policy accordingly.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The easing of entry and travel conditions for locations considered to have the virus under control is welcome news for the business community, as it signifies that Singapore is gradually but steadily taking steps to reopen both inbound and outbound travel. Singapore's new border control framework assesses risk of virus importation depending on where travellers come from. The government recognises that countries and regions are at different stages in terms of controlling the infection, and that there will be a need to continually assess to keep the classifications up to date with evolving conditions.

Travellers should monitor the entry/exit policies regularly to make sure they are in compliance.

Updated Entry Measures

On 21 August 2020, the Multi-ministry Task Force announced three categories in respect of Singapore's framework for admitting travellers, based on the country or region that they come from (see table on the next page).³

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The new categorisation will take effect from 1 September 2020.

Category 1: Travellers who do not have to serve SHN	Category 2: Travellers allowed to serve 7-day SHN at home	Category 3: Travellers required to serve 14-day SHN at designated facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers arriving directly from Brunei or New Zealand, who have remained there for the last 14 days before entry, will not be required to serve a SHN. They will be admitted into Singapore subject to receiving a negative COVID-19 test result upon arrival at the airport. • Short-term visitors may, from 1 September 2020, apply for an Air Travel Pass (ATP) between 7 and 30 days before their intended date of entry into Singapore. They will bear the cost of their medical bills should they require treatment for COVID-19 while in Singapore. • Singapore citizens, permanent residents, and LTP holders will similarly not have to serve SHN and will take a COVID-19 test upon arrival. They will not need to apply for an ATP. However, LTP holders will need to apply for prior entry approval as per existing requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SHN period will be reduced to 7 days (from 14 days previously) for travellers coming from locations considered to be low risk.⁴ • LTP holders may serve their 7-day SHN at a suitable residence that is only occupied by them or their family members, or a hotel. Singapore citizens and permanent residents may serve their 7-day SHN at their place of residence. • The COVID-19 test will continue to be administered before completion of SHN. • LTP holders will still need to apply for prior entry approval as per existing requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All other travellers will continue to serve their SHN at government-assigned facilities, and complete a COVID-19 test before the end of their SHN. • LTP holders will still need to apply for prior entry approval as per existing requirements.

Source: KPMG International member firm in Singapore

For both the 7-day and 14-day SHN, strict adherence to SHN obligations – including prompt response to monitoring, and remaining in the place of SHN at all times except to travel for the COVID-19 test – will continue to be enforced.

The authorities emphasised that they will continually review the global situation to determine the countries or regions where COVID-19 is well under control, or has deteriorated. Thus, it is to be expected that the countries or regions in the three categories will be updated over time in accordance with the public health risk assessment.

Updated Advisory on Outbound Travel

In line with the easing of border restrictions to short-term visitors from Brunei and New Zealand, Singapore has updated its travel advisory for Singapore citizens and residents to allow general travel to these two countries. However, travellers must check entry requirements imposed by Brunei and New Zealand, and should take all necessary precautions.

The government also updated its position to allow travel for students studying overseas where the school does not offer a distance learning option.

Barring the above exceptions, as well as those under existing reciprocal “green lane” arrangements⁵, the Singapore government continues to advise its citizens and residents to defer all other forms of travel overseas.

KPMG NOTE

Countries like Singapore are utilising reciprocal green lane arrangements or “travel corridors” as a safe medium to reconnect with other countries while stemming the risk of virus importation. To date, Singapore has entered such arrangements with the People’s Republic of China (“China”), Malaysia, and South Korea (from 4 September 2020).

FOOTNOTES:

1 Long Term Pass holders include holders of work, dependent, student, and long term visit passes, including in principle approvals.

2 The entry approval is requested from the Singapore government agency who issued the LTP (e.g. Ministry of Manpower (MOM) for work, dependent and long term visit passes issued by MOM).

3 For the official, detailed announcement, click [here](#).

4 In the Multi-ministry Task Force announcement of 21 August 2020, these countries and regions are: Australia (excluding Victoria State), Macao, Mainland China, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Note that this listing is subject to change depending on the global and local health situation.

5 Click on the links for information on the reciprocal green lane arrangements with [China](#) and [South Korea](#). For information on the Singapore-Malaysia Safe Travel and Periodic Commuting Arrangement, click [here](#) and [here](#).

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Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Singapore:



Dennis McEvoy
**Partner, Personal Tax & Global
Mobility Services**
Tel. + 65 6213 2645
dennismcevoy@kpmg.com.sg



Anna Low
**Partner, Personal Tax & Global
Mobility Services**
Tel. + 65 6213 2547
alow@kpmg.com.sg

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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Singapore.

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