



# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

2021-009 | January 7, 2021

# Philippines - COVID-19: Expanded Travel Restrictions

In compliance with the resolution issued by Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to prevent the spread of the new COVID-19 B117 strain, the Bureau of Immigration issued new travel restrictions.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

The restrictions cover foreign nationals regardless of visa category and include visa holders who have been previously allowed to enter the Philippines by virtue of special exemptions. The restrictions also affect the return of foreign national employees who left the Philippines for the holidays.

Employers should make the necessary changes to the travel plans and employment arrangements of their foreign national employees who are not able to enter the Philippines until the new restrictions are lifted or eased.

## Travel Restrictions in the Philippines

Effective 30 December 2020 to 15 January 2021, foreign nationals from the following countries shall be banned from entering the Philippines:<sup>1</sup>

United Kingdom*	Hong Kong	Lebanon	Sweden
Australia	Iceland	The Netherlands	Switzerland
Canada	Ireland	Singapore	USA**
Denmark	Israel	South Africa	
France	Italy	South Korea	
Germany	Japan	Spain	

\* Effective 24 December 2020<sup>2</sup>

\*\* Effective 3 January 2021<sup>3</sup>

The prohibition in respect of entering the Philippines applies to all foreign nationals of the listed countries regardless of visa category (including 9E Visa) or previously-issued endorsement or exemption from the Department of Foreign Affairs or Balikbayan privileges. Individuals who are coming from or who have been to the listed countries within 14 days prior to arrival in the Philippines shall not be allowed entry except those who only transited at the airport with no immigration admission to the country.

The travel restriction excludes returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who will be allowed to enter the country after undergoing a facility-based 14-day quarantine period.

## FOOTNOTES:

- 1 See [IATF Resolution No. 90](#) .
- 2 See [BI Public Advisory](#) posted in the official Facebook page of the Bureau of Immigration on 29 December 2020.
- 3 See [BI Public Advisory](#) posted in the official Facebook page of the Bureau of Immigration on 2 January 2021.

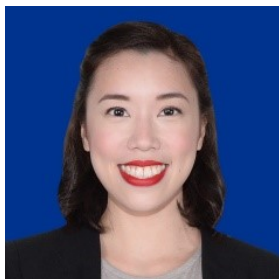
\* \* \* \*

## 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 the Philippines:



**Karen Jane S. Vergara-Manese**  
Partner  
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8349  
[kvergara@kpmg.com](mailto:kvergara@kpmg.com)



**Jozette Issel G. Dizon**  
Director  
Tel. + 63 (2) 8885 7000 ext. 8581  
[jgdizon@kpmg.com](mailto:jgdizon@kpmg.com)

\* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

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

© 2021 R.G. Manabat & Co., a Philippine partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG International provides no client services. No member firm has any authority to obligate or bind KPMG International or any other member firm vis-à-vis third parties, nor does KPMG International have any such authority to obligate or bind any member firm. All rights reserved.

[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

[kpmg.com/socialmedia](http://kpmg.com/socialmedia)



© 2021 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. NDPPS 530159

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International. The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization.

KPMG LLP is the U.S. firm of the KPMG global organization of independent professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. The KPMG global organization operates in 147 countries and territories and has more than 219,000 people working in member firms around the world.

Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such. KPMG International Limited is a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG International Limited and its related entities do not provide services to clients.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.