

GMS Flash Alert



Immigration Edition

2021-029 | January 19, 2021

Philippines – COVID-19: Expanded Travel Restrictions

The Philippine government added 13 countries with reported cases of the new coronavirus strain to its list of countries subject to significant travel restrictions.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

The restrictions cover more countries and have been extended until 31 January 2021.² Further extension of the travel restrictions is also expected as the Philippines reports its first case of the new COVID-19 strain.

The restrictions on inbound flights from the listed countries means travel interruptions and considerable inconvenience for travelers, including foreign workers from these countries trying to come/return to the Philippines. Employers should continue to plan for the employment arrangements of employees who are not able to return to the Philippines. At this stage, until normal entries are resumed from these countries, remote work and work-from-home arrangements are recommended.

Employers should consider the immigration and tax implications of the extended stay of employees outside the Philippines.

Travel Restrictions in the Philippines

Foreign nationals from the following countries shall be banned from entering the Philippines until 31 January 2021 (countries in red font are new countries added):

United Kingdom	Israel	Sweden	Austria
Australia	Italy	Switzerland	Pakistan
Canada	Japan	USA	Jamaica
Denmark	Lebanon	Portugal	Luxembourg
France	The Netherlands	India	Oman
Germany	Singapore	Finland	United Arab Emirates
Hong Kong	South Africa	Norway	Hungary
Iceland	South Korea	Jordan	People's Republic of China
Ireland	Spain	Brazil	

FOOTNOTES:

- 1 See latest [BI Public Advisory](#) posted on the official Facebook page 16 January 2021.
- 2 For prior coverage of the Expanded Travel Restrictions in the Philippines, read [GMS Flash Alert 2021-009](#) (7 January 2021)

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Contact us

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* 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.

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