

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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Argentina - Government Extends Administrative Decisions to Fight COVID-19

Argentina's government announced on 26 June new measures to combat the coronavirus, including an extension of existing coronavirus preventive measures until 9 July. Borders will remain closed and stricter measures have been established to help prevent the spread of new strains of COVID-19 in Argentina. (For prior coverage, see [GMS Flash Alert 2021-175](#), 15 June 2021.)

The provisions aim to protect the Argentine population and prevent the further spread of coronavirus/COVID-19. (For prior coverage of Phase 1, see [GMS Flash Alert 2020-058](#), 13 March 2020.)

Decree N° 411/2021 suspends in-person gatherings in economic, industrial, commercial, cultural, sports, religious, educational, tourist, recreational, and social activities until 9 July.¹ It is expected that this will have considerable impact on how Argentineans and foreign individuals live in Argentina.

Additionally, Argentina's government, with Administrative Decision N° 643/2021, announced the country's borders will remain closed until 9 July,² and suspended flights coming and going to Great Britain, Brazil, Chile, India, Turkey, and countries of the African continent, due to the prevalence of new strains of the virus in those countries.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The closures, suspension of various activities, and travel disruptions may prompt employers to re-consider their personnel and work arrangements due to the new situation. There also could be additional costs for employers to consider tied to (i) lodging in compulsory places for isolation purposes and (ii) sequencing tests administered.

Given current circumstances, remote working may be a "best practice" for globally-mobile employees – apart from essential workers – to the extent possible and is a way for employers to foster the safety of their employees and help with business continuity.

More Details

Passenger Flight Quotas, Coronavirus and Sequencing Tests, and Compulsory Quarantine

There will be a quota of six hundred daily seats on passenger flights for re-entry to the country by Argentine nationals and foreign residents who are abroad. Those individuals who test negative for coronavirus in respect of the test administered upon arrival must comply nevertheless with mandatory isolation in such places as indicated by the provincial authorities and the Autonomous city of Buenos Aires for a seven-day period from the collection of the test sample performed at the time of entry into the country. A second test will be administered at the seventh day of the traveler's arrival in the country and, if he or she tests negative, then open/free circulation will apply. However, if the individual tests positive for the coronavirus, the intervening laboratory must take precautions to genomically sequence the sample and the local health authority will trace the close contacts of the traveler and transfer him or her to a location for isolation.

The cost of the stay in places of compulsory isolation established by the provincial authorities and by the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires for this purpose and the cost of the sequencing tests must be assumed by the person who enters the country as established by the national authorities.

Not complying with these measures could result in between 15 days and up to two years of prison.

Continuance of Existing Measures

Measures prohibiting group gatherings, closing borders, advising people to keep 1.5 meters apart, and confining people to their homes, are still in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus due to the lack of vaccines.

KPMG NOTE

Any individuals impacted by the travel restriction extension may wish to consult with their global mobility advisers and immigration legal counsel as soon as possible for advice on next steps.

The KPMG International member firm in Argentina is tracking these matters closely. We will endeavor to keep readers of *GMS Flash Alert* posted on any important developments as and when they occur.

FOOTNOTES:

1 See Decree 411/2021 (*Decreto 411/2021*), published (in Spanish) in the *Boletín Oficial* at: <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246098/20210626> .

2 See Administrative Decision 643/2021 (*Decisión Administrativa 643/2021*), published (in Spanish) in the *Boletín Oficial* at: <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/246100/20210626> .

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Contact us

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*Please note the KPMG International member firm in the United States does not provide immigration or labour law 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 Argentina.

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