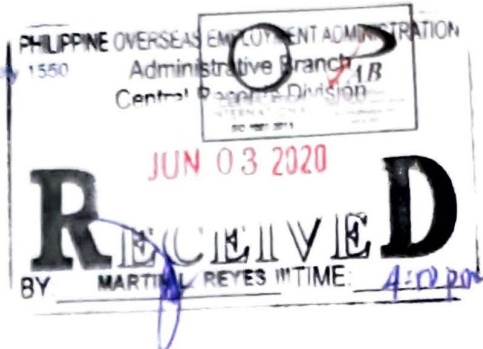




Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFD Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1550
Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Hotline: 8722-1144, 8722-1155



ADVISORY No. 74
Series of 2020

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR OFWS BOUND FOR SINGAPORE

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce on Wuhan Coronavirus of Singapore has put in place border restriction measures as follows:

From 16 March 2020, 11:59 PM, all travelers entering Singapore (including Singapore Residents, Long Term Pass holders, and short-term visitors) with recent travel history to Mainland China (excluding Hubei province), Republic of Korea, Iran, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, ASEAN countries (including the Philippines), Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). In addition, they will have to provide proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN, for example a hotel booking covering the entire period, or a place of residence they or their family members own. They may also be swabbed for testing for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations comprises Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam in addition to Singapore.

In addition to the SHN requirement, from 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all short-term visitors who are nationals of any ASEAN country will have to submit requisite information on their health to the Singapore Overseas Mission (Embassy of the Republic of Singapore in Manila) in the country they are resident before their intended date of travel. The submission will have to be approved by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) before travel to Singapore, and the approval will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Singapore checkpoints. Short-term visitors who arrive in Singapore without the necessary approval will be denied entry into Singapore. They are therefore advised to secure the approval before making definitive travel bookings.

All travelers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness are required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoints, regardless of travel history. Such travelers will also be issued a 14-day SHN, which they will have to serve in full even if the result of the swab test is negative. Those who meet the clinical suspect case definition will be conveyed to the hospital for follow-up.

Persons under SHN will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for 14 days after entering Singapore.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) of Singapore also introduced new measures for Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) as follows:

CONTROLLED AND DISSEMINATED
BY CRD ON JUN 03 2020

With effect from 16 March 2020, 11:59 PM, MOM will require all employers and employment agencies (EAs) planning for their FDWs to enter Singapore, to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey. This applies to all new FDWs (i.e. in-principle approval holders) and returning FDWs travelling to Singapore from any country.

Upon arrival in Singapore, FDWs will be placed on a mandatory 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). All new incoming FDWs must serve their SHN at an alternative accommodation (dormitories, hostels or hotels) before they can be deployed for employment. For FDWs returning from overseas, their employers can arrange for them to serve the SHN in the employer's residential address, or alternative accommodation.

Employers and EAs can apply for the entry approval online. Employers of direct-hire FDWs or employers of FDWs returning from overseas may also engage the services of an EA to assist in the entry approval and SHN arrangements. The party applying for the entry approval will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that the FDW complies with the SHN.
- Ensuring proper housing and upkeep arrangements for the FDW to serve the SHN without leaving the SHN accommodation. EAs and employers can visit www.mom.gov.sg/shn-alt-accom or contact MOM via mom_qops@mom.gov.sg if they need assistance on accommodation options.
- Ensuring that FDW has access to a local mobile phone and remains contactable for compliance checks by MOM during the SHN period.

The party requesting for the entry approval should inform the FDWs not to make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been obtained. The EAs or employers will be required to send the MOM approval letter to the FDWs, who will need to show it to the airline staff during check-in and at the ICA checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

EAs, employers and their FDWs have a collective duty to ensure that the entry approval and the SHN requirements are complied with. Enforcement action, including revocation of work passes and suspension of work pass privileges, will be taken if the requirements are not complied with. Demerit points will also be imposed on EAs whose actions result in violation of the requirements by the FDWs.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.



BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

16 March 2020

CONTROLLED AND DISSEMINATED
BY CRD ON JUN 03 2020