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**Extension of Validity of Expired Residence and Visit Visas  
in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

The UAE Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship announced that all visas, entry permits, and identification cards that expired before 01 March 2020 will remain valid until 31 December 2020 in an effort to ease the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. Residency visas that expired in early March will be extended through the new expiration date whether the holder is currently in the UAE or abroad. Moreover, visit visas that expired in early March that are held by persons currently inside the UAE will similarly be extended through the end of 2020.

Foreign nationals whose residence permit expired or was cancelled before 01 March 2020 are exempt from overstay fines if they depart the UAE within three months starting from 18 May 2020 until 17 August 2020. Those who remain and change their immigration status in the UAE will not be exempt from fines.

On the other hand, foreign nationals whose residence permit was cancelled after 01 March 2020 will be subject to overstay fines when they depart the UAE or change their immigration status after the expiry of the 30-day grace period. However, those who decide to remain in the UAE during their 30-day grace period but do not have a new employment offer, may change their immigration status and obtain a visit visa for tourism to avoid fines.

As of 01 June 2020, foreign national residents that are stranded outside of the UAE will be permitted to return provided they meet certain conditions. They must have a valid residence visa, as well as family either currently residing or employed in the UAE. Applications to obtain permission to return to the UAE, should be submitted through the Federal Identification and Citizenship "ICA" after 01 June through a dedicated portal for foreign national residents of the UAE, which can be found in the website of ICA. This permit authorizes the holder to enter the UAE within 21 days from the approval date.

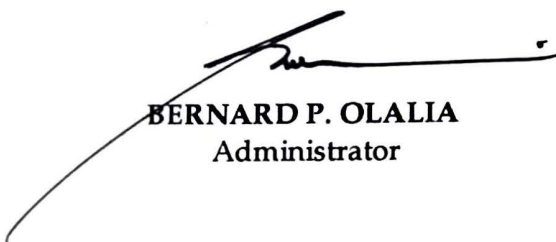
Applicants are advised to submit a letter of support explaining the reason for their return to the UAE (dependents who wish to return to the UAE to reunite with their family, must provide a letter with their signature stating their reason for returning. Employees who wish to return to the UAE to continue working require a letter from their employer with the employer's signature, stating the reason for their return).

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Essential workers such as medical staff and teachers, as well as pregnant women and children, will continue to be given priority.

The authorities have advised that those who initially applied for re-entry into the UAE and whose application was rejected, should reapply for permission to return after 01 June.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.



**BERNARD P. OLALIA**  
Administrator

19 June 2020

Sources: <https://beta.smartservices.ica.gov.ae/echannels/web/client/default.html#/login>  
<https://www.worldaware.com/covid-19-alert-uae-extends-validity-expired-residency-visit-visas-through-dec-2020>  
[https://gulfnnews.com%2Fliving-in-uae%2Fvisa-immigration%2Fultimate-guide-all-the-covid-19-uae-visa-announcements-you-should-know-about-1.1592224719876%3Ffbclid%3DlwAR3XZ4NIDPzuDZFZH6emfNErK4ymsBZay8qsBi8Slj63Rq\\_eoB9hGozk8s&h=ATOL57944ffs6V8MyfsIR\\_nM7FO50xUB9qacChZPC1bEvoLt\\_yTwEHnEeSIlodAeB1LeeH6M3KAbjEzy4XCbsApFhebulTv\\_9OgssEAzDH\\_8e3LHEgCyd1SPNAQuJU3iNIXcmw](https://gulfnnews.com%2Fliving-in-uae%2Fvisa-immigration%2Fultimate-guide-all-the-covid-19-uae-visa-announcements-you-should-know-about-1.1592224719876%3Ffbclid%3DlwAR3XZ4NIDPzuDZFZH6emfNErK4ymsBZay8qsBi8Slj63Rq_eoB9hGozk8s&h=ATOL57944ffs6V8MyfsIR_nM7FO50xUB9qacChZPC1bEvoLt_yTwEHnEeSIlodAeB1LeeH6M3KAbjEzy4XCbsApFhebulTv_9OgssEAzDH_8e3LHEgCyd1SPNAQuJU3iNIXcmw)  
<https://www.fragomen.com/file/newcoronavirustablefornewspage617v9pdf>

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