



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presents its compliments to all Diplomatic and Consular Missions, and Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and International Organizations residing in Myanmar and has the honour to provide the following updated information relating to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

(a) Public announcements with regard to the situation of COVID-19 in Myanmar

Even before the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Myanmar on 23 March 2020, Myanmar has stepped up its precautionary measures to contain importation and spread of COVID-19 with its limited capacity and resources by mobilizing collective strength of the people and community. Public announcements with regard to the situation of COVID-19 including news of patients under surveillance and suspected of COVID-19, and their lab test results are issued in real time. Updated information with regard to the situation of COVID-19 is provided at the official website of the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar (<https://www.mohs.gov.mm/>) and the Global New Light of Myanmar daily newspaper.

(b) Travel Advisory

In order to prevent importation of COVID-19, the Government of Myanmar was compelled to suspend temporarily the issuance of all types of visas to all foreign nationals except diplomats accredited to Myanmar, UN officials resident in Myanmar, and crew of vessels and aircrafts operating to and from Myanmar with effect from 29 March 2020.

Landing rights for all international commercial passenger flights have been suspended from 31 March 2020 up to 13 April 2020. However, these measures will not apply to relief flights, all-cargo flights, medical evacuation flights and special flights specifically approved by the Department of Civil Aviation.

Foreign diplomats accredited to Myanmar and UN officials resident in Myanmar may obtain entry visas at respective Myanmar Missions abroad. They are subject to 14-day home quarantine upon their arrival in Myanmar. All foreign nationals entering Myanmar shall be required to present a medical certificate of having tested negative from COVID-19 issued by a recognized laboratory no more than 72 hours before boarding any aircraft destined to Myanmar.

(c) Visa and stay permit extensions

Visa extensions for diplomatic and official staff members from Diplomatic and Consular Missions in Myanmar, personnel from Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and their family members may be applied through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on a free of charge basis.

Foreign Nationals currently stranded in Myanmar due to the *force majeure* following the suspension of international commercial passenger flights on 31 March 2020 will not be criminalized nor imposed penalties for overstaying in Myanmar. Visa and stay permit extensions for foreign nationals who entered Myanmar on 1 March 2020 onwards will be granted without any other charges except a fees of USD 50 for a period of three months from the date of visa or stay expiration.

Foreign nationals with any types of visas except tourist and transit visas wishing to extend their stay permits will be granted up to a period of 12 months in accordance with the existing rules and regulations.

(d) Access to COVID-19 testing

The Government of Myanmar has made available the COVID-19 testing at the National Health Laboratory (NHL) in Yangon for diplomatic and official staff members, UN personnel and their family members subject to lab capacity and availability of test kits. COVID-19 testing cannot be easily accessible even in resource rich countries with advanced healthcare systems where testing can be carried out only when do healthcare professionals consider it to be necessary. Due to limited lab capacity and availability of test kits in Myanmar, COVID-19 testing is not readily available for all including Myanmar nationals. However, COVID-19 tests will be made available to anyone who has developed COVID-19 symptoms or who is suspected of having contracted the coronavirus disease by health professionals.

(e) Arrangements for access to healthcare

As of 2 April 2020, five foreign citizens (one US, one Swiss and three French citizens) having tested positive are undergoing medical treatments in respective hospitals in Myanmar as are other Myanmar people tested positive for COVID-19. Diplomatic Missions will be communicated in case their nationals be placed under quarantine or hospitalized upon receipt of information at the Ministry.

A specific ward has been reserved at the Person Under Investigation (PUI) Unit and ICU at the Wai Bar Gi Hospital in Yangon for foreign diplomats and UN personnel in Myanmar and their family members suspected of COVID-19 infection or confirmed positive for COVID-19 by the National Health Laboratory (NHL). South Okkalapa Women and Children Hospital in Yangon will be designated in case of exceeding the maximum capacity in the Wai Bar Gi Hospital.

Queries with regard to healthcare matters should be directed to the officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports as appeared in Annex-1, and other queries

should be directed to officials from the COVID-19 Task Force of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as appeared in Annex-2.

Should a case of COVID-19 infection occur to a member of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions, and Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and International Organizations, it is requested to directly inform one of the officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports as appeared in Annex-1 to get access to medical treatment at the designated hospital.

(f) Possible Evacuation of Foreign Nationals

The Ministry in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications stands ready to assist dispatch of medical equipments and supplies to Myanmar or evacuation of foreign nationals by special flights to avoid inconveniences which they might encounter during the difficult time of COVID-19 outbreak. The Ministry also wishes to seek the assistance of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions in advising their nationals currently in Myanmar to limit their movements, to avoid crowded places, and to remain where they reside before the evacuation takes place for their health and safety.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been advised to take measures to prevent possible stigmatization and eviction of foreign nationals from hotels and apartments on account of fear and anxiety over COVID-19 among local people.

The Ministry has further the honour to inform that the Ministry of Health and Sports of Myanmar is in urgent need of medical equipments and supplies and COVID-19 test kits in its struggle to give treatment to affected people and to contain the spread of COVID-19.

In this regard, the Ministry would highly appreciate it if the Diplomatic and Consular Missions, and Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and

International Organizations in Myanmar could kindly mobilize donors in providing necessary medical equipments and supplies to Myanmar. The Ministry would like to express its gratitude to all those who have extended material and moral support to Myanmar in its fight against COVID-19.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Diplomatic and Consular Missions, and Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and International Organizations residing in Myanmar the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nay Pyi Taw 3 April 2020

Diplomatic and Consular Missions, and
Offices of the United Nations, its specialized agencies
and International Organizations,
Myanmar



**List of Contact Persons from the Ministry of Health and Sports
for medical related enquires with regard to COVID-19**

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4.	Dr. Toe Thiri Aung	Director Department of Public Health	09-5001972	toethiriaung@mohs.gov.mm
5.	Dr. Moe Khaing	Director Department of Medical Services	09-2174275	moekhaing@mohs.gov.mm
6.	Dr. Aung Soe Htet	Deputy Director International Relations Division	09-775678006	aungsoehtet@mohs.gov.mm

List of Contact Persons from the COVID-19 Task Force of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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