



**Taiwan:
Related Measures for Novel Coronavirus
Disease (COVID-19) (as of March 27, 2020)**

***This article is based on information available as of March 27, 2020.**

As of March 27, 2020, there were 267 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus disease (“COVID-19”) in Taiwan, and 2 related deaths.

In order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in Taiwan and economic damages caused by COVID-19, the Government of Taiwan has published the following regulations on related activities, financial assistance, and economic promotion measures.

Immigration restrictions

- From March 19, 2020, foreigners shall be prohibited from entering Taiwan unless they have a residence permit, certificate for diplomatic matters, certificate of fulfillment of a commercial contract, or other special permission. All foreigners and Taiwanese persons entering Taiwan shall take 14-day home isolation measures
- During the period from March 24 to April 7, 2020, flight connections in and through Taiwan are prohibited.
- Between 23 February and 30 June 2020, medical professionals and social workers are prohibited from traveling to the countries and regions with the highest travel alert level (Level 3) without permission.

Request to refrain from public events

On March 4, 2020, the guidelines for public events were released. Event organizers can refer to such guidelines when holding public events such as school entrance ceremonies, graduation ceremonies, festivals, sports events, gatherings for religious, political, cultural, scientific, and artistic purposes, travel, corporate bodies, associations, NGOs, and other activities involving the assembly of persons.

According to the guidelines, risk assessments must be carried out before the event based on factors such as participant information and the air circulation conditions at the event site. If the risk is considered high, self-restraint, such as postponement or cancellation of the event, is requested. If the organizers decide to hold the event, they shall establish an emergency response plan, such as an emergency response system, epidemic prevention education program, preparation of epidemic prevention facilities and protective equipment, accommodation plans for participants, and a health management plan for assembly staff, and shall make all necessary preparations and measures for the prevention of epidemics.

Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control urges that events of more than 100 people in an indoor space, or more than 500 people in an outdoor space, should not be held.

Financial assistance for business entities and measures for economic promotion

On February 25, 2020, the Special Ordinance for the Prevention of COVID-19 and the Measures for Financial Assistance and Economics Promotion) (in Chinese: 嚴重特殊傳染性肺炎防治及紓困振興特別條例) (hereinafter referred to as the "**Promotion Ordinance**") was announced by a President's Order.

According to Article 9 of the Promotion Ordinance, the competent authority is entitled to provide financial assistance, subsidies, promotion measures, etc., to the industries and businesses entities for which it has become difficult to operate their businesses due to the influence of COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, a Special Budget of 60 billion New Taiwan Dollars was approved by the Legislative Yuan¹, and the major budget proposals for financial assistance and economic promotion measures are as follows.

- Funding for business entities: Loan guarantees and interest subsidies for businesses entities impacted by COVID-19;
- Cost subsidies: Subsidies for business operation costs and taxes for the tourism, airport, aviation and transport operations industries;
- Promotion of R&D: Subsidization of R&D for businesses entities impacted by COVID-19;
- Promotion of Consumption: Issuance of promotional gift certificates for the tourism industry and artistic and cultural activities

Worker support measures

In many cases, employees in the tourism industry, food service industries, etc., have been dismissed or forced to take leave due to the influence of the COVID-19. The government has taken the following measures to support workers.

- Compensation and leave for home isolation: According to Article 3 of the Promotion Ordinance, a person who is ordered to engage in home isolation, and the person who looks after such person, may receive compensation for the period during which he/she cannot attend work (compensation of 1,000 new Taiwanese dollars per day). In addition, according to the same article, an enterprise must grant Home Isolation Leave to a person who is ordered to take home isolation measures, and must not impose any disadvantageous dispositions, such as reduction of full-time bonuses or dismissal.
- Employment support: The Department of Labor² has established employment stability measures, which provide for worker training or wage subsidies for workers who are forced to take leave, and for unemployed workers, subsidies for children's education will be provided, and the department is in the process of formulating a policy of encouraging to employment of unemployed workers.

¹ This is equivalent to the National Diet in Japan.

² This is equivalent to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Next Steps

The Government of Taiwan has not decided when to terminate the above-mentioned restrictions on entering Taiwan, and they are expected to continue for some time into the future. It is also impossible to exclude the possibility of further extending the restrictions on connecting flights. In addition, if the outbreak of COVID-19 spreads further in Taiwan, it is unable to eliminate the possibility that the Government of Taiwan may announce additional restrictions on activities, including a prohibition on all public events and the closure of companies. Therefore, it is necessary to continue to pay attention to the government trends and decisions.

Moreover, while the major policy and budget for financial assistance, economic promotion measures, and worker support measures have been determined, in terms of their execution, there are still many detailed regulations and orders in progress or under consideration; hence, it is essential to continue to observe the status of regulations and policies, in order to evaluate the impact on corporate entities.

