

COVID-19 Updates

As of 7 April 2020, prepared by Hong Kong and Guangzhou offices

Market	Hong Kong	China
Confirmed Case	936	81740
Recovered	216	77167
Death	5	3331
Confirmed Case Trend	<p>The first case is confirmed on 23 Jan which was imported from Wuhan directly and the patient was taking High Speed Railway to arrive Hong Kong.</p> <p>Then, in January and February, most of case were imported from China or Wuhan region directly and infected to local clusters because it was time of Lunar New Year, some of relatives living in China travelled to Hong Kong.</p> <p>In late-Feb to early March, a group of Hong Kong was touring to Egypt and all of tour members and tour leader, total 9, were infected in Egypt.</p> <p>From March, when COVID-19 has started spreading in Europe, US, Mid-east other overseas countries, the new wave of confirmed cases was mostly imported from these overseas countries whereas the patient was travelling to those countries whether leisure or business journey.</p> <p>Starting from mid-March, since European and US implement city lockdown order, a lot of school has been shut, then the overseas student come back as some of confirmed cases.</p> <p>Up till now, over 57.5% confirmed case is related to overseas student or with travel history in the past 14 days or the close contact of imported cases.</p>	<p>From Mid-March, number of confirmed case has been starting to reduce and some of provinces have reported no new cases in the past 14 days.</p> <p>From late March, number of imported cases from overseas is increasing.</p> <p>Thus, as of reporting on April 1– the total number of such cases under observation is 1,367 with 130 new asymptomatic cases recorded. As many fear the spread of the virus by asymptomatic people, which is why China's National Health Commission announced earlier that it would begin releasing their numbers in the total tally.</p> <p>http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202004/02/content_WS5e85f00ac6d0c201c2cc002f.html</p>
City Lockdown	No city lockdown but government imposes stringent measures for 14 days to approach social distancing:	<p>Hubei Province will be ease coronavirus lockdown on 8 April.</p> <p>All schools have been closed after Lunar New Year.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed all cinemas, gyms and other leisure venues for public gatherings – playground, sports complexes, libraries and city halls etc. 2. Not allow to assemble in group of more than four 3. Restaurants to limit the number of diners at each table to four with each table 1.5 meters apart 4. Bars and restaurants will only be allowed to operate at half their capacity, and must check patron's temperature and provide hand sanitisers for all guests. 5. Over 1200 pubs and bars has been closed <p><u>Schools</u> All schools have been swift to close after Lunar New Year and students maintain home and online learning.</p> <p><u>Transportations</u> High Speed Railway to / from China has been closed. Ferry and bus to / from Macau has been closed. 12 out of 14 border control points with China has been closed.</p>	<p>Public areas must check patron's temperatures and provide hand sanitisers for all guests.</p>
<p>Travel Alert</p>	<p>In January, government urged publics to avoid travel to China, particular Hubei Province</p> <p>On 17 March, Security Bureau has urged a member of public to avoid non-essential travel outside Hong Kong and issue global RED Travel Alert to all overseas countries and territories as the COVID-19 threat and suggest publics to adjust travel plans.</p> <p>In late March, Government also suggest member of public to avoid travel Taiwan and Macau as well.</p> <p>https://www.sb.gov.hk/eng/ota/ https://www.coronavirus.gov.hk/eng/travel-advice.html</p>	<p>No Travel Alert scheme, but alert member of public to avoid travel to infectious areas.</p>
<p>Travel restrictions for Resident</p>	<p>Start from February, all people entering Hong Kong (including residents) from the Mainland China will be required to undergo compulsory quarantine upon their arrival.</p>	<p>Quarantine measures All residents will be subject to the latest quarantine policies for 14 days in quarantine centre</p>

<p>returning from overseas</p>	<p>From early March, all Hong Kong residents arriving in Hong Kong who have been to the following countries or areas in the past 14 days will have to stay in a quarantine centre:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-do, Korea 2. Iran 3. Emilia-Romagna, Lombardy and Veneto, Italy <p>Start from 19 March, all Hong Kong resident arriving in Hong Kong who have been to any other overseas countries or areas (including Taiwan and Macau) in the last 14 days will be subject to <u>compulsory quarantine</u> at home.</p>	<p>Provincial travel restrictions</p> <p>Many provinces and cities require 14-day mandatory home-based or centralized quarantine for inbound travelers either from overseas or other Chinese provinces and cities, although the policy details can differ.</p>
<p>Travel restrictions for <u>Non-Resident coming from overseas</u></p>	<p>On 2 February, Visa to Hong Kong for Mainland Chinese has been stopped.</p> <p>From 17 March,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All non-Hong Kong residents coming from overseas countries and regions by plane will be <u>denied entry</u> to Hong Kong 2. Non-Hong Kong residents coming from the Mainland China, Macau and Taiwan will be denied entry to Hong Kong if they have been to any overseas countries and regions in the past 14 days 3. All travellers coming from Taiwan and Macau, including Hong Kong and non-Hong Kong residents, will be subject to compulsory quarantine, which is the same as the arrangements for people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland <p>Transit restrictions</p> <p>Passengers are no longer permitted to transit through Hong Kong International Airport.</p>	<p>Entry restrictions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreign nationals with visas issued before 28 March 2020 are not permitted to enter China. 2. Foreign nationals with residence permits or APEC 3. Business Travel Cards are not permitted to enter China <p>http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/infographics/202003/27/content_WS5e7d93b9c6d0c201c2cbf9ad.html</p> <p>Entry restriction exemption</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreigners holding diplomatic, service, courtesy or C visas 2. Foreign nationals coming to China for necessary economic, trade, scientific or technological activities; foreign nationals arriving for emergency humanitarian needs may apply for visas at Chinese embassies / consulates 3. Foreign nationals with visas issued on or after 28 March 2020 <p>Further entry restrictions in Sanya and Haikou, Hainan Island</p> <p>Passengers travelling on China ID cards or PRC passports that show Hubei province as the place of issue, or passengers have visited Hubei province in the past 14 days will be denied entry</p> <p>Transit restrictions</p>

		<p>Passengers are no longer permitted to transit through Beijing Capital International Airport and Xiamen Airport.</p> <p>Visa restrictions All visa free transit services have been suspended. This includes the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 24/72/144-hour visa free transit policy 2. Hainan 30-day visa-free policy 3. 15-day visa-free policy for foreign cruise-group-tours through Shanghai Port 4. Guangdong 144-hour visa-free policy for foreign tour groups from Hong Kong or Macao SAR 5. Guangxi 15-day visa-free policy for foreign tour groups from ASEAN countries 6. Additionally, the visa exemption policy is suspended to nationals of Japan, Singapore and Brunei <p>Quarantine measures All passengers, regardless of nationality, will be subject to the latest quarantine policies in quarantine centre</p> <p>Provincial travel restrictions Many provinces and cities require 14-day mandatory home-based or centralized quarantine for inbound travelers either from overseas or other Chinese provinces and cities, although the policy details can differ.</p>
<p>Travel industry difficulties</p>	<p><u>Tour Operators</u> Since mandatory home quarantine orders for overseas returnee will be valid until 18 June, the tour operators have been cancelled and suspended all overseas tours until further notice.</p> <p>Some of travel companies are closes its outlets and office in March or even April where member of staff will have been undergoing non-paid leave for March or may extend to April.</p> <p><u>Government subsidy</u></p>	<p>On 26 January, Ministry of Culture and Tourism has halted sales of outbound and domestic group tours and travel packages until further notice.</p> <p>Travel agency is still shut until further notice.</p> <p>https://skift.com/2020/01/26/china-cancels-group-trips-as-coronavirus-control-measures-expand/</p>

	<p>On 13 March, 1,350 licensed travel agencies have started to apply a one-off subsidy of either HKD8000 through the Anti-epidemic Fund.</p> <p>https://www.tar.gov.hk/eng/doc/Guide-to-Registration-and-Registration-Form.pdf</p> <p><u>International Travel Expo 2020</u> Hong Kong International Travel Expo will be postponed until August due to imposing arrival quarantine between 19 March to 18 June.</p> <p>https://www.itehk.com/travelexpo/doc/press/TKS-Announcement-19Mar20.pdf</p>	
<p>General public Subsidies Scheme</p>	<p>On 14 February, Hong Kong Government announced HKD10000 handout for every adult permanent resident in Hong Kong.</p> <p>https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1511204-20200227.htm</p>	<p>Subsidy scheme is only for COVID-19 patient and health care front liners.</p> <p>Only 30% of SME company has resumed work.</p>

All the above measures and orders will be revised and government will update by time to time.