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## New Notice from Prime Minister's Office on COVID-19 Reinforcement Measures

On 26 November 2020, the Prime Minister's Office issued the Notice on Additional Instructions on Reinforcement Measures for Containment, Prevention and Full Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic ("**Notice**"). The Notice follows the Decree of Prime Minister No. 93/PM dated 3 March 2017, the Order of the Prime Minister No. 06/PM dated 29 March 2020 which is referred to in the Notice, the report of the National Task Force Committee for Prevention and Control of COVID-19 ("**Task Force**") and instruction of the Monthly Ordinary Government Meeting held on 24 November 2020.

The Notice sets out the following restrictions on movement and gatherings which must be implemented during the period from 1 to 31 December 2020 to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Lao PDR:

1. There will not be issuance of tourist and visitor visas to individuals who travel from or transit through countries with COVID-19 outbreak until 31 December 2020.
2. International charter flights will be temporarily suspended for the countries with COVID-19 outbreak in the community, except for emergency flights and those that are necessary that will be subject to strict monitoring and checking for compliance with safety measures. Passengers from countries with no COVID-19 outbreak in the community will be tested for COVID-19. Passengers who transit from countries with COVID-19 outbreak in the community shall not be allowed to take such flights.
3. The celebration of National Day and other days of national importance shall be approved. The organisers of these celebration shall strictly implement the measures for the prevention of the spread of the virus such as observing social distancing, wearing masks, and sanitising hands with alcohol gel or soap ("**Safety Measures**").
4. The celebration of social activities and traditional festivals of the ethnic groups shall be approved. The traditional festivals of some ethnic groups (e.g. Kin Jieng traditional festival) shall be celebrated only by family members and held within the village. If it is necessary to hold them at the district or provincial level, the approval of the provincial governor and/or the capital governor must be obtained. Organisers must strictly comply with the Safety Measures.
5. The Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism will liaise with the relevant departments/agencies to remind the society that even if Laos has no COVID-19 cases in the community, the society still has the responsibility to follow the measures to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. The Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Public Security and relevant departments/agencies shall carry out strict inspections at the borders of Lao PDR in order to prevent illegal immigrants from entering into or exiting Lao PDR. This is to ensure that there is no risk of bringing pathogens into the country.

# Client Update: Lao PDR

## 2020 DECEMBER

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7. Employees of all relevant local department/agencies in each level shall carry out strict inspections in their respective areas of responsibility to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in Laos, and report COVID-19 cases to their superiors regularly and in a timely manner.

Visit our [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#) for views from our lawyers across the region on common issues and legal implications brought about by COVID-19. For specific inquiries, please reach out to your relationship partner or send an email to our [COVID-19 Legal Team](#).

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