

Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2020



Vietnam

No mandatory quarantine requirement for Experts visiting Vietnam less than 14 days

Executive summary

On 31 Aug 2020 the Ministry of Health issued Official Letter No. 4674/BYT-MT ("the Letter") to provide guidance on prevention and control of Covid-19 infection for investors, experts, skilled workers, enterprise managers and their relatives (collectively called as the "Experts") and visitors coming to Vietnam for diplomat and official government purposes (collectively called as "Government Visitors"). According to the Letter, no mandatory quarantine is required for these groups. However, they are required to strictly comply with the regulations on prevention of Covid-19.

The Letter provides the general principles of Covid-19 prevention and protection during the stay of the Experts in Vietnam, including the requirements for Experts, the temporary residential place, place of meeting and people who have close contact with the Experts or Visitors.

The related Ministries and People Committees are responsible for providing the detailed processes.

Detailed discussion

Responsibilities from the sponsoring enterprises

For supporting experts to work in Vietnam, the sponsoring entity must take notes:

- ▶ Make sure that the experts have international health insurance, or the sponsoring enterprises commit to pay the treatment costs in case the experts are positive with COVID-19.

- ▶ Develop and report the plan for entry, transportation, accommodation, working place of experts to the related authorities and pay all the costs regarding to accommodation, transportation and Covid-19 test.
- ▶ Arrange the working/meeting place suitably and appropriately to ensure safety against Covid-19. The meeting venue is recommended to be in provinces or cities near the border gate to limit inland entry and cross-cities moving.
- ▶ Ensure all safety requirements for prevention of Covid-19 as regulated during meeting.

Key instructions for Experts

Experts are not required for mandatory quarantine if they stay in Vietnam less than 14 days; however, they must comply with current government's regulations on Covid-19 prevention and control. They are also required to:

- ▶ Undergo a Real time-PCR test for Covid-19 from 03 to 05 days prior to the date of entry into Vietnam and the result must be negative. The test must be conducted in the authorized laboratories. The test result of negative with Covid-19 must be shown to competent authorities upon arrival to Vietnam.
- ▶ Conduct the health declaration and install/use the Bluezone app during their stay in Vietnam.

- ▶ Take Covid-19 test at the approved accommodations. The experts can only work after the test result is negative with SARS-CoV-2. Sampling for test with Covid-19 will be done every 2 days during their stay in Vietnam. Sampling for test by Real time-PCR will also be taken 01 day before the Experts leave Vietnam in order to have isolation and prevention for people who contacted with Experts.
- ▶ Stay in the approved accommodations as arranged by the provincial people's committee, only conduct the business activities which have been notified in advance with competent authorities. The place of meeting should be priority in premise of hotel or residential place to limit contact with the Experts.

After 14 days upon the arrival date, if experts are required to continue working in Vietnam and the tests of Covid 19 are negative, the sponsoring company can request for experts to continue working in Vietnam with the related authority, no requirement for mandatory quarantine.

Guidelines for persons in close contact with the Experts

Persons in close contact with the Experts during their stay in Vietnam must report to health authorities to provide required information.

During the working period with the Experts, these persons are strictly required to comply with all requirements for prevention and protection of Covid-19.

After working/meeting with the Experts, the persons are permitted to work as usual but are required to limit contact with community within 14 days from the last date having contact with the Experts.

Next steps

Letter No.4674/BYT-MT provides a general guidance but is considered a good development from the Government for business travellers to come to Vietnam. However, to implement this guideline, it would require a lot of collaboration of different authorities which is expected to be challenged and time consuming.

We are following up closely with the related authorities for the detailed process and required documents for the Experts to work in Vietnam for less than 14 days to be waived from mandatory quarantine. We will keep you posted with any news once we hear further update from the competent authorities.

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