

## APAC COVID-19 Landscape Update Updated 21 October 2020

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### 1. Overview

- Oct thus far has seen a surge in cases across Malaysia, Philippines & India
- New Zealand lifts its Covid-19 restrictions off its largest city, Auckland.
- Travel corridors continue to take shape.....
- Australia allowing for the resumption of travel from New Zealand (with no quarantine for NZ arrivals), starting with two of its states
- South Korea & Japan have agreed to resume business travel starting mid October 2020
- Japan plans to lift its travel ban to 12 countries and regions, including China and Singapore by Nov 2020
- Singapore government laid out its aviation revival strategy for the coming months, it includes travel corridors, international transit and the unilateral opening of its borders to countries with comprehensive public health surveillance, choosing countries with comparable Covid-19 rates to Singapore.
- Singapore & Hong Kong are in discussions on a travel corridor that may exempt residents from quarantine, no firm date has been announced.
- Indonesia announced revising a rule banning foreigners from entering the country as the country looks to establishing travel corridors.

### 2. Political Developments

- [Australia](#) resumes travel to New Zealand with effect from 16 October. Australian states of New South Wales and the Northern Territory, will also allow individuals from NZ to enter Australia without the need for quarantine, if they have spent at least two weeks in parts of New Zealand that are not considered a COVID-19 hot spot. New Zealand will however continue to maintain its 14-day mandatory quarantine period for all individuals arriving into the country.
- [Singapore](#) will expand its unilateral Air Travel Pass (ATP) scheme to visitors from Australia (excluding Victoria state) and Vietnam. From 8 October, visitors from Australia and Vietnam will be able to apply a permit to enter Singapore, for all forms of short-term travel, including leisure travel. Australia and Vietnam joins Brunei and New Zealand in Singapore's list of countries that it welcomes visitors from.
- [Singapore government laid out its strategy to restart the country embattled aviation sector](#). Testing capacity at Changi Airport, it will also begin looking into [new requirements](#) to replace the 14-day quarantine, acknowledging it as a deterrent to potential travellers. It was also announced that Singapore will be [negotiating air travel bubbles](#) for general travellers that do not require a controlled itinerary with safe countries.
- [Japan and South Korea](#) have reached an agreement which will allow for the resumption of business travel between two countries. From mid October, travellers on short-term business trips will not be permitted to the 14-day self-isolation period, as long as they test negative for the virus upon arrival and declare a controlled itinerary. Expatriates /long-term residents will be allowed to enter on the condition that they remain in isolation for two weeks.

## Annex A: Summary of 'Travel Corridors' changes in Asia Pacific

Countries		Remarks
China	South Korea	Visitors require company or governments invitation to travel, Covid-19 tested 72 hours before departure. Upon arrival, they will have to be quarantined for up to two days and be subjected to another test, before being allowed to proceed with their trip.
Taiwan	Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, , Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam	Business travellers require company or governments invitation to travel, Covid-19 tested 72 hours before departure. Quarantine, with the duration dependent on the length of stay of the traveller in Taiwan. Those who are residing in Taiwan more than 3 months are mandated to 14-day quarantine.  The list of approved countries is dependent on the Covid-19 situation and will be updated regularly.
Indonesia	China, South Korea, United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Business travellers require company or governments invitation to travel, Covid-19 tested 72 hours before departure & another test upon arrival. Discussions to open up to visitors is underway
India	Japan	Currently allowed for individuals holding valid visas or nationals for Japan and India respectively. All travellers are subjected to current public health measures in place on both sides.
Australia	New Zealand	Starting from 16 October, Australia and New Zealand will resume a partial opening of borders to travel. Starting with travellers from New South Wales and Northern Territory, travellers can fly in without the need for quarantine, provided they have spent at least two weeks in parts of New Zealand that are not considered a Covid-19 hot spot. New Zealand will maintain its mandatory 14 day quarantine.
Japan	Korea	Mid October, both countries will allow for the resumption of business travel, with travellers on a short term visit not needing to to observe 14-day self-isolation periods. They must be tested upon entry and be subjected to a controlled itinerary.

Singapore	China	<p>Business travellers require company or governments invitation to travel, Covid-19 tested 48 hours before departure. Itinerary to be submitted prior to the start of the trip and be subjected to another test upon arrival. Quarantined for 2 days before the commencement of their trip. Individuals are not allowed to deviate from their submitted itinerary.</p> <p>The agreement will first cover six Chinese provinces and municipalities (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang)</p>
	Brunei, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea	<p>Business travellers require company or governments invitation to travel, Covid-19 testing within the respective countries. Must also have remained in the departing country for 14 days prior to their arrival, Strictly abiding by a pre-declared controlled itinerary and downloading the relevant contact tracing application.</p>
Singapore	Australia (except Victoria state) ,Brunei, New Zealand, Vietnam	<p><u>Air Travel Pass (ATP)</u> The Air Travel Pass is a <b>unilateral initiative</b> by Singapore, currently in place for short term visitors to Singapore. Visitors must have remained in these countries for 14 days prior to their arrival into Singapore.</p> <p>They must also seek approval prior to their departure and abide by the various control measures such as undergoing a swab test, strictly abiding by a pre-declared controlled itinerary and downloading the relevant contact tracing application.</p>
	Malaysia	<p><u>Periodic Commuting Arrangement (PCA)</u> A scheme agreed between Singapore and Malaysia to allow work and business-related travel between the two countries <b>via land border crossings</b> for long-term work permit holders from both countries.</p> <p>Under the PCA, individuals must remain in Singapore/Malaysia for at least 90 days before returning to their respective home countries. Other public health control measures do apply.</p>
	Japan	<p><u>Residence track scheme</u> The scheme will cover nationals from both countries who are holders of Work Passes issued by the and those who have been granted in principle approval for a work pass by the authorities. Individuals will be subjected to the relevant health protocol in the respective country.</p>

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