

APAC COVID-19 Landscape Update Updated 29 October 2020

1. Overview

- Malaysia reintroduced partial lockdown in the areas such as Sabah & Kuala Lumpur.
- Indonesia surge to the highest in South East Asia.
- Australia starts to ease lockdown measures which were implemented weeks ago on the back of a surge in cases.
- **Reopening Air Travel**
- Vietnam and Japan have agreed to resume short term business travel
- Singapore has established additional reciprocal green lanes (travel corridor) with Germany and Indonesia.
- Australia was reported to be in talks with countries such as Japan, South Korea and Singapore on resuming travel.
- Aviation association IATA is working to put in place a testing system that will replace compulsory quarantine.

2. Political Developments

- [Singapore](#) announced a travel corridor with Germany for business or official purposes. This is the first travel arrangement with a European country for Singapore. Operational details of the green lane, including the procedural requirements, health protocols, and application process, will be announced at a later date.
- [Singapore and Hong Kong](#) have reached an in-principle agreement for a bilateral air travel bubble, which will exempt individuals on leisure travel from quarantines or stay-home notices. Travellers under this bubble will also be exempted from a controlled itinerary that is currently in place for various travel corridors across Asia. Travellers under this bubble will still require a negative mutually recognised COVID-19 test, and be required to go on dedicated flights. There will also be a quota on the number of flights plying both sides, with the launch date and implementation details to be announced at a later date.
- [Indonesia and Singapore](#) announced a travel corridor for essential business and official travel. Applications commenced 26 October with necessary control measures such as pre-departure and post-arrival testing, a controlled itinerary as well as a government or company sponsor from either side.

- [Vietnam and Japan](#) have agreed to establish a travel corridor that caters to short term business travellers in addition to the resumption of two-way passenger flights between both countries. The Japanese government plans to exempt such travellers from the 14-day quarantine, provided they satisfy requirements of negative Covid-19 test pre-departure and upon arrival, and be subjected to a controlled itinerary.

3. Regulatory Developments

- Airport Authority [Hong Kong](#) (AA) announced it will continue to offer rent relief measures for retail and catering tenants for a further two months till the end of December 2020 (previously extended the same relief measures only until October 2020)

4. Industry Developments

- The [International Air Transport Association](#) (IATA) is working to establish a Covid-19 testing system that will replace compulsory quarantine, as part of its initiatives to revive the airline industry. Together with the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Health Organisation, IATA is seeking to put in place a testing regime that is fast, affordable and scalable. IATA recommends for Covid-19 tests to cost less than US\$10 (S\$13.60).

Annex A

Appended are the list and description of the various schemes currently in place by various countries in Asia.

1. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

a. Travel Corridor: Caters to essential business and official travel

Countries	
China	South Korea
Taiwan	Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Japan, , Malaysia, Macau, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
Indonesia	China, South Korea, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
India	Japan
Australia	New Zealand
Japan	Korea
Japan	Vietnam
Singapore	Brunei, China, Germany (pending implementation), Indonesia (with effect 26 Oct), Malaysia, Japan, South Korea

b. Others: Schemes targeted to allow for the movement of long term residents between two countries (e.g. Periodic Commuting Arrangement between Singapore and Malaysia)

Countries	
Singapore	Malaysia - Periodic Commuting Arrangement covering long-term work permit holders from both countries, who must have at least resided in the respective country for 90 days
	Japan - Residence Track Scheme covering nationals from both countries who are holders of Work Passes and those who have been granted work passes in principle

Travellers on the above mentioned schemes are subjected to the various health control measures which generally include rules such as:

- Swab tests at pre departure and arrival points
- Controlled itinerary
- Reduced quarantine time
- To be sponsored by a business or government entity in the traveller's country of arrival

- c. **Travel Bubble:** Designed for general / leisure travel without mandatory quarantine and a controlled itinerary. This a nascent development, with currently **only Singapore and Hong Kong** having announced such an arrangement, the various control measures are still pending confirmation. It is within our understanding that travellers will be obligated to undergo a Covid-19 swab test at an approved facility and travel on designated flights between Singapore and Hong Kong. A quota on the number of travellers is also expected to be imposed.

Countries	
Singapore	Hong Kong (agreed in principle – pending confirmation of exact implementation date. Full details to be announced)

2. UNILATERAL AGREEMENTS

- a. Currently, only Singapore has unveiled such initiative for general / leisure travellers from an approved list of countries (Australia (except Victoria state), Brunei, New Zealand, Vietnam). Known as the **Air Travel Pass**, individuals must comply with measures such as:
- Having remained in the approved list of countries for 14 days prior to their arrival into Singapore
 - Swab tests at departure and arrival points
 - Pre-declared controlled itinerary
 - Downloading the relevant contact tracing application
