



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Task Force Committee for
Prevention, Control and
Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

No. 1444/MOFA.TC
Vientiane Capital, dated 01 June 2020

Travel advisory

For entry and exit of Lao PDR during the implementation of measures to prevent, control and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Pursuant to the decision of the Government to establish a Task Force Committee for Prevention, Control and Response to the COVID-19 pandemic No. 09/PMO dated 03 February 2020.
- Pursuant to the division of responsibility of the Economic Task Force Committee for monitoring and proposing measures to addressing the impacts of COVID-19 No. 001/TFC, dated 8 April 2020;
- Pursuant to the Notice of the Prime Minister's Office on continuing to implement measures to prevent, control, contain and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, No. 597/PMO dated 29 May 2020.

The Task Force Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Prevention, Control and Response to the COVID-19 pandemic has the honor to inform that the Lao Government decides to continue closing all border checkpoints to prevent and contain the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Against this backdrop, any individual and juristic person wishing to enter or exit Lao PDR must follow the following steps and procedures:

I. Entry

1. Prior to the departure to the Lao PDR

1.1. Steps for requesting permission to enter the Lao PDR

- 1.1.1. Any Ministry and Agency with an essential and urgent need to bring in experts and foreign students can do so by proposing in writing to the head of Secretariat of National Task Force Committee (located in the Ministry of Public Health);
- 1.1.2. Any individual and juristic person with an essential and urgent need to bring in investors and entrepreneurs for business feasibility study or contract signing needs to propose in writing to the Head of Secretariat of the National Task Force Committee and must attach the following documents:
 - Domestic and foreign investment license;
 - Enterprise registration certification;
 - Proof of annual tax payment;
 - Letter requesting for visa from the Investment Promotion Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment or from Provincial/Vientiane Capital Planning and Investment Department addressed to Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it has to go through the Department of Immigration, Ministry of Public Security before its submission to Consular Department;

- Proof of booking confirmation at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee for quarantine;
 - The letter addressed to the head of Secretariat of the National Task Force Committee shall provide details on names, date, point of entry, mode of transportation, venue for self-quarantine, transit country (if any) and reasons for the urgent entry to the Lao PDR.
- 1.1.3. Companies or project owners in the Lao PDR with an essential and urgent need to bring in foreign workers and technicians for their businesses or projects can do so. First, they have to follow the normal procedures as required under the relevant laws and regulations for bringing in foreign workers and after that submit a request in writing to the head of Secretariat of the National Task Force Committee, and must attach the following documents:
- Investment license in Laos;
 - Enterprise registration;
 - Proof of annual tax payment;
 - Quota permission to employ foreign workers and license to bring in foreign workers from Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;
 - A Letter requesting for visa from business/project owner addressed to Consular Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it has to go through the Department of Immigration, Ministry of Public Security before its submission to the Consular Department;
 - Proof of booking confirmation at a venue designated by the Task Force Committee for quarantine;
 - The letter addressed to the head of Secretariat of the National Task Force Committee shall provide details on names, date, point of entry, mode of transportation, venue for self-quarantine, transit country (if any) and reasons for the urgent entry to the Lao PDR.
- 1.1.4. For Lao nationals who wish to return to the Lao PDR, they need to register at the Lao Embassy or Consulate General at the country of their residence and provide necessary information (why he/she has been stranded, date, time and point of entry, etc.) for consideration and facilitation by the latter;
- 1.1.5. A diplomatic mission and international organization with an essential and urgent need to bring in its diplomats or staffs to carry out its duties both on a short or long term can do so by proposing in writing to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- 1.1.6. All requests for entry into the Lao PDR shall reach the head of Secretariat of the National Task Force Committee in advance of at least 07 days prior to the proposed date of departure.

1.2. Requirements for foreigners prior entering the Lao PDR upon receiving entry authorization.

- 1.2.1. Individual with valid entry visa (not yet expired) can enter the Lao PDR;
- 1.2.2. For those who do not have an entry visa to the Lao PDR must apply for visa at the Lao Embassy or Consulate General at the country of departure;
- 1.2.3. Every individual must have a negative test for COVID-19 certification using RT-PCR from a trustworthy medical institution of no more than 72 hours before departure to the Lao PDR.

2. On arrival at a border checkpoint or airport

- 2.1. Every Individual must go through a body temperature check;
- 2.2. Duly complete a health declaration form;
- 2.3. Present the proof of negative test of COVID-19 to the immigration officer;

- 2.4. Check in at immigration counter as required by the law and regulations with maintaining physical distancing of 1-2 meters;
- 2.5. In case of an individual found to have fever or suspicious symptoms of COVID-19, he/she will be directly sent to designated hospitals for quarantine and COVID-19 testing;
- 2.6. In case of no fever or suspicious symptoms of COVID-19, he/she will be recommended to do self-quarantine at a government designated venue and taken COVID-19 testing.

3. After entering the Lao PDR

- 3.1. Every individual is subject to a strict 14-day self-quarantine at a hotel or center designated by the Task Force Committees at the central and local levels;
- 3.2. Every individual who takes self-quarantine at the hotel designated by the Task Force Committee shall bear all expenses on food, room and other accidental cost;
- 3.3. After completion of a 14-day self-quarantine and without any symptoms of COVID-19 infection, the individual will receive a certificate for him/her to stay at their home and live their normal lives, but they also must continue to strictly implement the prevention measures as advised by the Task Force Committee;
- 3.4. For diplomats, staff of international organizations and their family members travelling from or through country of ongoing COVID-19 outbreak are required to undergo COVID-19 testing upon arrival at the National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology and take 14-day self-quarantine at their residences as well as reporting the body temperature monitoring. If there are any suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 infection such as fever, coughing, sore throat or breathing difficulty, they have to report to the Task Force Committee via its hotline or Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- 3.5. For those who violated the prevention measures as provided by the Task Force Committee for COVID-19 will be prosecuted according to the laws and regulations of the Lao PDR.

II. Departure

1. For Lao nationals who need to travel abroad are able to do so provided that it is permissible by the country of destination and they have to fulfil the requirements under the law and regulations of the country of destination.
2. For foreign nationals who need to exit the Lao PDR, they need to propose through their Embassy and follow the requirements provided by the country of destination;
3. The respective Embassy has to inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in writing together with the list of individuals who wish to depart the Lao PDR with details of passport number, date of departure, exit point, mode of transportation and other necessary information for consideration and facilitation by the latter.

Remark: This Travel Advisory entered into force from 02nd to 30th June 2020 and replaced the previous Travel Advisory No. 1380/MoFA.TC, dated 15 May 2020.

Therefore, it is the honor to notify you, for your kind information and strict implementation of this notice.

Deputy Minister
Member of the Central Task Force Committee
Head of Task Force Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Signed and sealed)

Thongsavanh PHOMVIHANE