



Coronavirus Update
for AustCham Shanghai Members

Iris Zhang

Director, Shanghai

February 20, 2020

FRAGOMEN

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

- ▶ Current government policies on expats
- ▶ Movement in and out of China
- ▶ Our recommendation

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective



Current government policies on expats

- Online applications accepted without personal appearances for work permit renewal, cancellation and amendment.
- Rule for renewal application to be filed at least 30 days prior to the expiry of an existing work permit temporarily suspended.
- Immigration Authorities mainly focused on urgent applications.



Movement in and out of China

- Travel bans
- Closure of ports of entry
- Quarantines
- Suspension of visa processing



Our recommendation

- Population analysis
- Management of expires
- Exit formalities
- A committee formed to manage all travels
- Communication

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Current government policies on expats

Immigration authorities in China have issued a series of positive measures to streamline or expedite the application process and provide convenience to foreign nationals during epidemic control and prevention, including

- ▶ Online applications accepted without personal appearances for work permit applications:
 - Applied for work permit extension, amendment, de-registration and notification letter of work permit application for all categories of work permit
 - Online application applies to transfer applications in some cities, i.e., Shenzhen and Beijing.
 - A signed commitment letter to promise the authenticity and validity of their online submission
 - Maintain the original file for further checks if needed
- ▶ Rule for renewal application to be filed at least 30 days prior to the expiry of an existing work permit temporarily suspended

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Current government policies on expats

- ▶ Provide alternative solution for new work permit application if notification letter of work permit or Z visa expires before an employee enters China
- ▶ Public Security Bureau mainly focused on urgent visa and residence permit applications and have provide convenience to foreigners to facilitate the process, such as:
 - 24 hours hotline is in service, issue a prompt guide and tips on public via WeChat, Weibo, SMS and official website
 - Green channels for urgent matters
 - Foreign nationals who are unable to exit China or extend the visas or residence permits due to the reason of virus shall be given a lighter or mitigated or be exempted from punishment by the authority depending upon circumstances
 - Online system for Temporary Residence Registration application
 - Online application of certain residence permit applications is available in some locations such as Shenzhen

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Movement in and out of China

130+ countries and jurisdictions are taking immigration measures such as issued travel advisories; closed or reduced hours at the consular posts in China; introduced additional health screenings, etc.

- ▶ The country specific measures of interest can roughly be grouped into:
 - Entry Bans
 - Closure of Ports of Entry
 - Quarantines
 - Travel Route Cancellations
 - Suspension of Visa Processing
- ▶ From Mainland China perspective:
 - All port visa agencies are operating as usual, and foreign nationals can still exit from and enter to China as usual with valid international travel permit and passport, except Wuhan city implemented a temporary closure of the departure since 23 January 2020.

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Movement in and out of China

▶ Travel Restrictions for Australia

- Entry ban for anyone who has left or transited Mainland China on or after February 1, 2020, except Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, immediate family members of Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents, New Zealand citizens and airline and maritime crew.
- Self-isolation for 14 days from the time of leaving Mainland China for Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, immediate family members of Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents, New Zealand citizens and airline and maritime crew who left or transited Mainland China on or after February 1, 2020.

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Our recommendation

Three Key Phases

▶ Situation awareness

Information gathering and seek immigration provider's advice to understand government changes and updates, employee's populations, their locations and travels, and other relevant data.

▶ Population analysis

- Evaluation and analysis of the implications for different type of employees – expats and local hire; new hire and existing populations; work permit holders and business travellers.

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Our recommendation

- Management of expires – according to employee's location, current status to analysis any implications and risks and support to file the extension applications in accordance with government requirement. Understand any government exemptions that may apply.
- Exit formalities – manage the situation that foreign employee needs to leave China, need to have the permits cancelled or seek urgent processing subject to government discretion.

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Our recommendation

- ▶ Mobilization roll out – strategy plan
 - A committee formed to manage all travels i.e. HR, business, legal, health, security, etc.
 - Set up the protocols
 - Communication with various stakeholders within the business, any red flags of travels, and provide different options.

COVID-19: An Immigration Perspective

Our recommendation

To help you remain current during this fluid situation, we have created a special section on the home page of our public website - <https://www.fragomen.com/about/news/immigration-update-coronavirus>.

You can also follow our WeChat for the latest information.



QUESTIONS / COMMENTS?

THANK YOU



Iris Zhang
Director

Shanghai, China

E:IZhang@Fragomen.com

T:+86 21 6182 9972

Follow us!

