

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Immigration Updates related to Coronavirus (Last updated 09:00 KST, 3 February 2020)

To curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, which broke out in Wuhan, Hubei Province in China, the Korean Government will take the below measures until the risk of infectious disease is reduced:

1. Entry Ban from 4 February 2020, 00:00 KST

All foreigners who have been in or passed through China's Hubei Province since 21 January 2020 are NOT allowed to enter South Korea. South Koreans returning from the virus-hit province will be required to spend 14 days in self-quarantine.

2. Separate Immigration Process from 4 February 2020, 00:00 KST

Those arriving from China, including both foreign and South Korean nationals, will go through a separate immigration process at all airports and ports in which they have to submit their passport numbers and contact information. They will be only allowed to enter once the phone number they have submitted is verified at the scene.

3. Suspension of Visa-free Program of Jeju Island from 4 February 2020, 00:00 KST

This is the first time that the government has suspended the visa-free program of Jeju island since its launch in 2002. The government also plans to minimize entries from China by tightening the issuance of visas and is considering suspending short-term visas for travel.

4. Suspension of Employment trainings for H-2 visa holders in February 2020

This 3-day Employment training is about learning Korean culture and labor law. It is mandatory for H-2 visa holders to submit this employment training certificate when they find a job in South Korea. Recurrent training is required every 5 years.

H-2 visa is for overseas Koreans from China and former Soviet Union countries. An average of 4,700 people has taken this training per month and almost 50% of them are from China.

It is the first time to suspend the training in 14 years since the training system launched in 2006.

5. Travel Alert for Korean nationals

The country's travel alert level for China has been heightened from "restraint" to "withdrawal recommendation," the third highest in its four-tier travel warning system. Flight schedules to China should be double-checked with the booked airlines as flights can be canceled with very short notice or without notice due to rapidly rising coronavirus cases.

6. Temporary Change of Jurisdictions of the Korean Consulate in Wuhan, China

Hunan Province → Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Guangzhou

Jiangxi Province → Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Shanghai

Henan Province → Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Qingdao

Foreign residents and visitors in South Korea who needs medical checks due to Coronavirus symptoms, such as 37.5°C or above fever and/or respiratory symptoms, should call to 1339 (National Quarantine Station, KCDC) or 1345 (Immigration Contact Center).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team:



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