

# COVID-19 Food & Beverage Impact: Monitoring Update

27 MARCH 2020

As the coronavirus cases spreads globally, the industry is beginning to feel the early impacts in their supply chain, including business operations, logistic service, and retail to customers.

This weekly report serves to examine the updates and impacts of COVID-19 towards the food supply chain in Asian countries. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this report is accurate at the time of distribution.

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Country	Issue	Period	Measures	Impact on Food Supply Chain
China	<p>While the nation sees a die down of domestically transmitted cases, pressure on imported cases is still high. Government is coming up with measures to boost economy and domestic demand.</p>	<p>Life started returning to normal after two months of lockdown in most parts of China. The lockdown of the City of Wuhan, China's epicentre of the outbreak, will be lifted from 8 April, 2020.</p> <p>While domestic lockdown is eased, stricter measures are being put in place to prevent a surge in imported cases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent a surge in imported cases, China is ramping up quarantine and screening rules for all international arrivals. International flights are being reduced or cancelled.</li> <li>• To avoid an economic meltdown, the Chinese government has adopted a package of policies to support the resumption of work and production, including fiscal, monetary, financial and trade policies.</li> <li>• The central government also launched a package of policies to stabilise international trade and foreign investment and continues to open the market.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past weeks, in general, domestic demand is picking up and factories across China are humming at close to capacity.</li> <li>• While supply-side constraints will be eliminated fairly quickly, it will be much more difficult for demand to recover due to the decrease in consumers' spending power.</li> <li>• Dine-in restaurant businesses continue to be hurt as people are still afraid of going out.</li> <li>• E-commerce was looking much stronger than brick and mortar retail, especially for food sector.</li> </ul>

India	21-day lock down was announced on 24 March 2020	25 March to 15 April 2020 (21 days)	<p>Guidelines<sup>1</sup> on the measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19 Epidemic in the Country was announced as following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial and private establishments shall be closed down with the exceptions for those who provide essential services.</li> <li>• Industrial establishments will remain closed with the exceptions of manufacturing units of essential commodities, production units, which require continuous process, after obtaining required permission from the State Government.</li> <li>• The permitted operating establishments must ensure necessary precautions against COVID-19 shall be fulfilled, including social distance measure, and requirements as advised by the Health Department from time to time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shops, dealing with food, groceries, fruits and vegetables, dairy and milk booths, meat and fish, animal fodder, are allowed to open.</li> <li>• Delivery of all essential goods including food through eCommerce is allowed</li> <li>• Food industry face challenges with regards to the definition of essential goods.</li> <li>• The central government has asked all states and Union Territories (UTs) not to obstruct or close food processing units, and maintain uninterrupted supply during the nationwide lockdown. <a href="#">The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has provided clear instructions to state authorities</a> to ensure that the interstate movement of goods for the food processing industry. DPIIT also advised to grant the operators in both manufacturer and non-manufacturers (transport vehicles) who have involved in</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines on the measures to be taken by Ministries/Departments of Government of India, State/Union Territory Governments and State/Union Territory Authorities for containment of COVID-19 Epidemic in the Country. Retrieved from: <https://mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines.pdf>

				<p>the food supply chain the permission to work for ensuring operational viability and maintain uninterrupted supply of food products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Potential challenge and recommendation:</b></li> <li>• Companies are facing challenges on operating the production due to the unclear definition of essential goods which could be manufactured during the 21-day lock down.</li> <li>• Moreover, the unclear of definition of essential goods covered under the guidelines will further lead to the different interpretations by different state governments. Companies shall work closely with the local authority to obtain a certificate that will allow them to continue to operate.</li> <li>• <b>FIA Action:</b> FIA is closely working with local industry association FICCI to address industry's concerns to ensure food manufacturers and suppliers can continue to operate</li> </ul>
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Indonesia	Jakarta and six other provinces declared emergency	Jakarta: 23 March onwards (for at least two weeks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie theatres, bars and other entertainment facilities were shut whereas public transportation is limited in terms of number of passengers and operational hours.</li> <li>• Businesses are to keep operations to a minimum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Announcement from Ministry of Industry Indonesia</a>: The Government authority has urged food industry to continue the food production to support the food availability. This is also applied to those non-manufacturers who are involved in food supply chain, including logistics service providers, distributors.</li> </ul>
Malaysia	The Movement Control Order (MCO) has been extended.	18 March to 14 April 2020*  *The MCO was initially announced to end on 31 March 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The announced Movement Control Order has been extended.</li> <li>• Malaysians may only leave their homes to buy groceries, for emergencies or to access health care. Social visits are banned</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has announced<sup>2</sup> that the companies producing essential goods that have received approval from MITI will remain valid until 14 April 2020.</li> <li>• However, MITI also emphasized that it will no longer accept any more application from any company after the last date of submission set, which was on 24 March 2020.</li> <li>• Food manufacturers that have received approval letter from MITI are required to issue</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Media Release from Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Retrieved from: [https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/Media\\_Release\\_-\\_Companies\\_with\\_MITI%E2%80%99s\\_Approval\\_Letter\\_May\\_Continue\\_to\\_Operate\\_During\\_Extended\\_Movement\\_Control\\_Order.pdf](https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/Media_Release_-_Companies_with_MITI%E2%80%99s_Approval_Letter_May_Continue_to_Operate_During_Extended_Movement_Control_Order.pdf)

				<p>individual letters of authorisation for employees to travel to work<sup>3</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food manufacturers that have received approval letter from MITI are also required to provide a copy of approval letter to the logistic and transport service providers for them to operate during the MCO period<sup>4</sup>.</li> <li>• <b>Potential challenge and recommendation:</b></li> <li>• Currently, the food industry is facing challenges on maintaining the production due to the strict requirement on the reduction of manpower in manufacturing plant. The industry shall work closely with local authority to keep the production maintained to support the adequate food supply.</li> <li>• <b>FIA Action:</b> FIA closely working with the local industry association, the FMM MAFMAG, to address industry's</li> </ul>
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<sup>3</sup> MITI Official announcement on the individual letter of authorization for employees to travel to work. Retrieved from: [https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/Siaran\\_Media\\_-\\_Kebenaran\\_Bekerja\\_Untuk\\_Pekerja\\_Sektor\\_Swasta\\_Diberikan\\_Kepada\\_Syarikat\\_Yang\\_Mendapat\\_Kelulusan\\_Untuk\\_Beroperasi.pdf](https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/Siaran_Media_-_Kebenaran_Bekerja_Untuk_Pekerja_Sektor_Swasta_Diberikan_Kepada_Syarikat_Yang_Mendapat_Kelulusan_Untuk_Beroperasi.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Media Release on Approval to Operate Extended to Logistics and Transport Services Providers for Manufacturers Producing Essential Goods. Retrieved from: [https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/5\\_LOGISTIC\\_SERVICE\\_PROVIDERS\\_SUPPORTING\\_FACTORIES\\_PRODUCING\\_ESSENTIAL\\_GOODS\\_ALLOWED\\_TO\\_OPERATE\\_21\\_MARCH\\_2020.pdf](https://www.miti.gov.my/miti/resources/Media%20Release/5_LOGISTIC_SERVICE_PROVIDERS_SUPPORTING_FACTORIES_PRODUCING_ESSENTIAL_GOODS_ALLOWED_TO_OPERATE_21_MARCH_2020.pdf)

				concerns for ensuring adequate food supply during the MCO period.
	Temporary closure of nine (9) Thailand-Malaysia land and sea borders <sup>5</sup>	22 March 2020 onwards	All individuals are restricted from passing the closed borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the closure of borders, the movement of goods and supply is still permitted through approved borders. Only one land/sea border will be opened at different Thailand provinces that connected to different states in Malaysia.</li> <li>• Specific requirements are listed to be adhered by the logistics service providers.</li> </ul>
Philippines	Travel restrictions	22 March 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All individuals are restricted from entering/leaving the country, excluding the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For entering Philippines: Domestic workers, repatriated Filipinos and their families, and foreign government officials and international organisation officials to accredited to the Philippines</li> <li>○ For leaving Philippines: Individuals who are working overseas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	N.A.

<sup>5</sup> Update 5: COVID-19 Movement Control Order. Retrieved from: <https://www.fmm.org.my/Announcements-@-UPDATE-5-; COVID-19 Movement Control Order.aspx>

	<p>Update on The local lock-downs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeals to local authorities (21 March)</li> </ul>	<p>12 March to 14 April</p>	<p>N.A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of manpower and delay in deliveries to supermarkets.</li> <li>• Inventory of finished products getting low.</li> <li>• Mobility of personnel across <i>barangay</i> remains a challenge due to strict screening and difference in implementation by the local government. The food sector has reduced workforce capacity to 50%.</li> <li>• The production faced problems in manufacturing products due to the restrictions of movements for people and goods.</li> <li>• The Department of Agriculture has urged local government authorities to allow employees for food producing companies to go to work for ensuring adequate food supply in quarantined areas, provided they adhere to the social distancing protocol and follow health and sanitation measures.</li> <li>• This shall be applied to those who are non-manufacturers, but involved in the food supply chain too.</li> <li>• In the Philippine Food Chamber's discussion with Philippines FDA</li> </ul>
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				on 26 March, FDA has issued a memo to allow four months extension for soon-to-be expired Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) and License to Operate (LTO) that were filed between 1 March to 31 March 2020.
Singapore	Joint ministerial statement between Singapore and six other countries to highlight commitment in maintaining open supply chains	N.A.	N.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministers from Singapore, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Myanmar and New Zealand committed to uphold trade connectivity.</li> <li>Leaders affirmed the importance of not imposing export controls or tariffs and non-tariff barriers, and to remove restrictions on essential goods – especially medical supplies.</li> <li>Local industry sees logistics disruption and delay in shipments which would bring an escalation of cost in food products as alternative such as airfreight is considered.</li> </ul>
Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of confirmed COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curfew was imposed from Friday, 19 March is continuing to date (<i>This varies</i>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone shall stay at home, unless he/she is involved in the essential services (health, police, military, and others)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government circular dated 19 March orders to maintain all essential services. The transportation of primary</li> </ul>

	<p>cases has risen to 104 as on 26 March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police curfew imposed on the whole country is continuing.</li> </ul>	<p><i>from region to region. However, Western Province, where most number of confirmed cases are reported, is locked down for an indefinite period now).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical fraternity request to continue this till 1<sup>st</sup> week of April 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All industries (with the exception of those involved in essentials such as food, pharmaceuticals and other items) shall cease operations.</li> <li>• Airport is closed, except for transit passengers. Foreigners are disallowed to enter into the country. All locals returning from abroad shall undergo mandatory 14 days quarantine.</li> </ul>	<p>agricultural produce for rice, vegetables and fruits is allowed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the circular dated 23 March, animal products (milk, meat, eggs, fish...etc.) are given special consideration for processing and transportation. These establishments that are permitted for operations shall ensure the adoption of precautionary measures, as per government's directives.</li> <li>• Online ordering and delivering of essentials are in place. Apart from supermarket chains, a lot of new eCommerce companies have involved in it now.</li> <li>• Historically, March and April are one of the bestselling period for foods and beverages in Sri Lanka for a number of reasons (e.g. local new year, harvesting season, dry weather...etc.). Hence, the epidemic has impacted profit and loss of most food companies.</li> </ul>
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Thailand	Prime Minister declared State of Emergency	25 March to 30 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel ban is issued with exemptions for goods transportation and travellers with permits.</li> <li>• Establishments that provide essential goods and services can continue to operate.</li> <li>• Newly infected cases have seen a daily downward trend as government continues with measures to contain the spread, e.g. closure of crowded places.</li> <li>• Public transportations that serve cross-provinces routes were discontinued on 26 March.</li> <li>• Operations in factories are allowed to be carried on.</li> <li>• 'War room' for seven categories were established, i.e. processed food, livestock, fruits &amp; vegetables, rice, medical supplies, logistics &amp; delivery, animal feed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checkpoints are set up between provinces for body temperature and hygiene checks on travellers.</li> <li>• Factories remain in operations.</li> <li>• The 'war rooms' are the joint working groups between industry and ministries to ensure supplies for necessities are sufficient and not disrupted.</li> </ul>
Vietnam	Prime Minister Announced New Measures	26 March to 9 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gatherings of more than 20 people at a time is banned</li> <li>• Temporary shut down for non-essential services</li> </ul>	N.A.

Australia	"Stage 2" Lockdown	23 March onwards (up to 6 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure/ban on non-essential services. Essential service includes health workers, education workers, aged care workers and critical public service workers, but the complete list varies between states.</li> <li>• Australians have been told to stay home except for essential outings.</li> </ul>	While supermarkets, pharmacies, freight and retail will continue to trade, cafes and restaurants will only be able to offer takeaway and delivery services.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel restrictions</li> <li>• Domestic border control</li> </ul>	20 March onwards (Varies between states)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australia's borders will be closed to everyone except for Australian residents, citizens and their family members.</li> <li>• Travel ban on citizens and residents going overseas except in exceptional circumstances.</li> <li>• Most state borders have been closed; citizens and residents must avoid all non-essential domestic travel. Only essential workers and services are exempted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The movement of produce, livestock or farm inputs are not heavily affected by local lockdowns or state border restrictions.</li> <li>• However, farmers and food producers are working to have "essential service" status granted for farm sector and food supply chain to ensure that the transport of produce from farm to market is unobstructed.</li> <li>• Currently, only Victoria has confirmed agriculture and agribusinesses as essential services. South Australia permits food and commercial supply chain industries to freely cross state border checkpoints.</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>23 March:</b> In a virtual meeting between Singapore's PM Lee and Australia's PM Scott Morrison, the two nations have agreed to keep markets open and supply chains running, reflecting the shared commitment to advance bilateral relations.</li> <li>• An MOU on food safety and standards (amongst other pillars) was signed during this meeting.</li> </ul>
Brunei	Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) released information on cross-border transportation services <sup>6</sup>	19 March onwards	N.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border transportation services between Sarawak and Brunei are permitted for delivery of essential goods.</li> <li>• Lorry drivers are required to complete the online registration form.</li> </ul>
	Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) announced interim measures	1 April onwards (for six months)	N.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six-month deferment on the Employees Trust Fund (TAP) and Supplemental Contributory Pension (SCP) contributions for private sector employees earning BND1,500 and below in</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> Information on Cross-Border Transportation Services. Retrieved from: <https://www.mofe.gov.bn/Press%20Room/Press%20Release%20-%20Maklumat%20Mengetahui%20Perkhidmatan%20Pengangkutan%20Merentas-Sempadan.pdf>

	to support private sector <sup>7</sup>			<p>all sectors of MSMEs category with employees fewer than 100.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government financing SCP contribution of self-employed group.</li> <li>• 30% discount on rental rates of government buildings for MSME sectors.</li> <li>• 50% tax discount on corporate income tax for the year of assessment 2020 to target sectors.</li> <li>• 15% discount on water and electricity bills.</li> </ul>
Japan	Basic Policies <sup>8</sup> for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control was announced	25 February 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policies comprise the ongoing measures and the possible measures to be taken to respond to future.</li> <li>• The policies covered are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice of information sharing with individuals, private sectors, and regions</li> <li>• Understanding the situation of infection in Japan</li> <li>• Measures to control the infection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>With the spike of cases in Japan, restaurant chains and retailers whose staff have become infected with the COVID-19 have responded by closing quickly and taking steps to disinfect the outlets.</p> <p>Local companies shall take note of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies shall encourage employees and other personnel to take leave if they present fever or other flu-like symptoms.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Interim Measures to Support Private Sector. Retrieved from: <https://www.mofe.gov.bn/Press%20Room/Press%20Release%20-%20Langkah-Langkah%20Interim%20MoFE.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Basic Policies for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control (Tentative translation). Retrieved from: <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/10200000/000603610.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health system to deliver medical care</li> <li>• Border control measures (Travel restrictions and quarantine practices)</li> <li>• Others</li> <li>• The government is also implementing a set of measures<sup>9</sup> to prevent the spreads of COVID-19, which adhered to the basic policies promulgated, including             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR screening</li> <li>• Temporary school closures</li> <li>• Prevention measures for social welfare facilities for elderly people</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The practice to promote teleworking and staggering commuting hours are advised for these employees in order to reduce contact with others. Companies are urged to encourage employees to work from home, if it's possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies shall cooperate with government whenever there is an individual patient outbreaks within the company.</li> <li>• There is a possibility where government will request companies to present on the infection control policies at their facilities if the situation is getting more and more unpleasant.</li> <li>• With the sudden cancellations of school lunch-related orders for March, there is a strong hit on the food suppliers who have been providing ingredients for school lunches across the nation. The food suppliers are left with purchased/produced stocks.</li> </ul>
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<sup>9</sup> [COVID-19] Government Responses on the Coronavirus Disease 2019. Retrieved from: [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/onqoinqtopics/\\_00013.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/onqoinqtopics/_00013.html)

New Zealand	Lockdown; "Alert Level 4 - Eliminate"	26 March to 26 April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alert level has been raised from level 3 to 4 due to two cases of COVID-19 having been identified as community transmission.</li> <li>Businesses deemed to be essential service will remain open, including supermarkets, pharmacies, service stations, hospitals, medical clinics and banking services.</li> <li>Any entity involved in the supply, delivery, distribution and sale of food, beverage and other key consumer goods, as well as food and beverage production and processing have been deemed as essential services.</li> <li>All services, including ferry rides between the North and South Islands will be reserved for emergency services or the transportation of good throughout the country, while coach services have ceased completely from 25 March.</li> <li>Public transport will continue to operate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the nationwide lockdown the New Zealand Government recognised the supply, production, processing, delivery and distribution of food and beverages as essential.</li> <li>However, the local food service sector is heavily impacted from the lockdown as they are required to close for a month.</li> </ul>
	Travel Restrictions	19 March 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New Zealand's borders will be closed to everyone except for New Zealand residents, citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the significant dip in air freight capacity, the nation's national carrier kept 11 key</li> </ul>

			<p>and Australian citizens and residents who normally reside in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travellers who have arrived in New Zealand within the last 14 days (from 19 March) must self-isolate.</li> </ul>	<p>routes to keep air freight moving through important cargo corridor to North America and Asia.</p>
South Korea	<p>South Korean government has been releasing regular briefing<sup>10</sup> of Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters on COVID-19 when there is a need to deliver the current status of and future plan for the response to COVID-19.</p>	N.A.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On <a href="#">23 February</a>, the President Moon Jae-in has raised the nation's infectious disease alert to the highest level as a preemptive measure against the possible national spread of COVID-19. In the highest alert level, the measures such as travel restrictions and quarantines practices were introduced.</li> <li>On <a href="#">10 March</a>, the Ministry of Education (MoE) postponed the new school year for kindergartens, elementary, middle, high schools across the nation to 23 March 2020. From the same day onwards, all the inbound travellers from Japan are subjected to fever testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An upsurge is observed in the food delivery, where consumers are increasingly turning to contactless service as the infection cases increase.</li> <li>On the other hand, the demand of agricultural product (potatoes) from Gangwon Province, came crashing down in the past few months due to the closure of restaurants, and school canteens in the country.</li> <li>The farmers are facing issue in managing a huge amounts of potatoes which were harvested and stored from last year.</li> <li>The government authority started to solve the issue by launching relevant online</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Press Release (Regular Briefing of Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters on COVID-19). Retrieved from: [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101s.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101s.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1)

			<p>and special quarantine declaration checked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On <a href="#">16 March</a>, the MoE has decided delayed the start of new school year. On the same day, the special entry procedure will be expanded to all Koreans and foreign nationals entering Korea.</li> <li>• On <a href="#">18 March</a>, the government announced measures to assist small businesses affected by COVID-19.</li> <li>• On <a href="#">25 March</a>, the government started the conducts of diagnostic tests for COVID-19 targeting all travellers arriving from Europe, with the effect from 22 March 2020.</li> </ul>	<p>campaign to sell the commodity at the price which less than a third of retail prices at supermarket.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local business shall adhere to the preventative measures listed on the press released on <a href="#">11 March 2020</a>, <a href="#">12 March 2020</a>, including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of employees and visitors check</li> <li>• Good hygiene practice to be implemented at the workplace</li> <li>• To designate a manager responsible for infection control of COVID-19</li> <li>• Education to employees and visitors</li> <li>• Social distancing practice</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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