

Updates Regarding COVID-19 Restrictions and New Lockdown in Israel

December 24, 2020

The Israeli government has decided on a series of steps to address the recent increase in COVID-19 cases.

These are the main points:

A nationwide lockdown will be in effect between December 27_{th} - January 10_{th} (with an option to extend based on the continued Covid-19 infection rates). Among the restrictions expected to be enforced during the lockdown:

- Restrictions on movement beyond 1000 meters from one's residence.
- Work in the private sector will be limited to 50% of a company's workforce.
- Closure of entertainment, commerce, domestic tourism and partial closure of educational institutions.
- Gatherings to be limited to 10 people indoors and up to 20 outdoors.
- All foreign countries are defined as "red countries" all persons who arrive in Israel from abroad will be transferred to controlled quarantine facilities operated by the government for two weeks (may be shortened to 10 days subject to passing two consecutive COVID-19 tests per the MOH instructions).
- To the best of our knowledge, expert workers or others holding work visas are temporarily prohibited from entering the country, unless they obtained specific special entry permission. For experts holding working permits or alike returning to Israel (e.g., from vacation) who can prove that their "center of life" was in Israel prior to these restrictions taking effect may seek special permission to enter the country. In any such case or in emergency situations, we recommend that you contact us so that we can make a preliminary review with the relevant authority.

Currently, there is no specific information regarding the activity of the Immigration Authority during the lockdown.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO WORK PERMITS OR ENTRY PERMITS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR TEAM AT ANY TIME

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES SEASON'S GREETINGS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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For additional information about our firm's Immigration and Foreign Expert Relocation group, click <u>here</u>.

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