

Front Page

Taiwan News

Business

Editorials

Sports

World News

Features

Home / Taiwan News

Thu, Feb 27, 2020 page3

Virus Outbreak: Medical personnel travel ban until June 30

TIGHTER CONTROLS: Hospitals are required to control the flow of people in their facilities, including patients, visitors and outside contractors, a health official said

By Lee I-chia / Staff reporter







The Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) yesterday announced that a ban on medical personnel traveling abroad is to last until June 30 and that tightened access controls would be implemented at hospitals to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak at healthcare facilities.

Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung (陳時中), who heads the center, on Sunday said that medical personnel would be banned from traveling abroad, but the CECC on Monday clarified that there are different levels to the ban, and that the details and complementary measures would be discussed in a meeting on Tuesday.

"The subject of the ban is all medical personnel, of any department and any position, working in hospitals, but those working in clinics are not included," Ministry of Health and Welfare Department of Medical Affairs Director-General Shih Chung-liang (石崇良) told a news conference at the CECC yesterday.

Most Popular >

- 1 Virus Outbreak: AIT to boost cooperation with Taiwan for vaccine
- Man held for roadside murder



Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung briefs reporters at the Central Epidemic Command Center in Taipei yesterday on the COVID-19 outbreak situation.

Photo courtesy of the Central Epidemic Command Center

Medical personnel are strictly prohibited from visiting countries or areas where the center has issued a level 3 "warning" travel advisory for COVID-19 — China, Hong Kong, Macau and South Korea — and they must apply to and gain approval from the ministry if they need to make a visit, he said.

Medical personnel are asked to temporarily avoid travel to countries where a level 2 "alert" or a level 1 "watch" travel advisories have been issued — such as Japan, Singapore, Iran, Italy and Thailand, Shih said, adding that they would have to apply in advance and gain approval from their hospitals before leaving.

The ban went into effect on Sunday and is to last until "June 30, but it might be shortened or extended depending on the COVID-19 epidemic situation," Shih said. "The prohibition includes layovers in any of these countries or areas."

Medical personnel who have gained special approval to visit the affected areas must comply with quarantine rules for such areas and would not be allowed to take part in frontline healthcare work for 14 days after returning to Taiwan, he said.

People who have traveled to areas with a level 3 travel advisory in the 14 days prior to their arrival in Taiwan face a 14-day mandatory home quarantine and those arriving from areas with a level 2 or a level 1 travel notice must perform self-health management for 14 days.

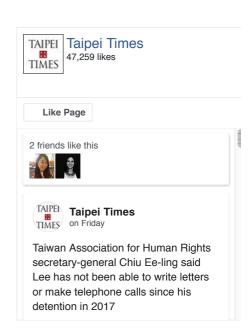
Medical personnel who are affected by the travel ban can apply for full compensation for financial losses, such as from canceling flights, under the Special Act on COVID-19 Prevention, Relief and Restoration (嚴重特殊傳染性肺炎防治及紓困振興特別條例) passed on Tuesday, Shih said.

The meeting on Tuesday with hospital management also concluded that hospitals must step up access controls to prevent COVID-19 transmission, Shih said, adding that the measures are aimed at three types of visitors.

Hospitals are required to make plans to separate the flow of "patients" moving within hospitals, he said.

They should limit visiting hours and the number of visitors — each inpatient can have only two visitors at one time and only one companion, including caretakers — who must

- 3 Mask claims fly in face of science
- 4 Virus Outbreak: Level 3 alert issued for more nations
- 5 Richard D. Fisher, Jr. On Taiwan: Strateg artillery's timely return



register their personal information and travel and contact history with the hospital, he added.

The ministry also set up management guidelines for dispatch workers, including janitors; waste management personnel; security guards; medical gown, bedding rental and laundry service workers; caretakers; and shop employees, Shih said.

The guidelines include requiring dispatch workers to comply with all procedures set by the hospitals; enter and exit through specially arranged routes; and wear a mask when in health facilities, while hospitals should educate outside contractors about disease-prevention measures and ask them to monitor their employees' health conditions, he said.

讚 分享

Comments will be moderated. Keep comments relevant to the article. Remarks containing abusive and obscene language, personal attacks of any kind or promotion will be removed and the user banned. Final decision will be at the discretion of the Taipei Times.



You might also like

Man held for roadside murder

2020-03-16

'LOST MY MIND': Police said that surveillance footage captured the incident, in which a man on a motorcycle was stabbed while waiting to pick By Jason Pan

Waterfall bridge opens next month

2020-03-16

A suspended bridge near the Double Dragon Waterfalls (雙龍瀑布) in Nantou County is to open to tourists next By Lin Ping-chuan and Jake Chung



Virus Outbreak: Rise in demand for new airport transport seen

2020-03-16

Demand for disease-prevention taxi and vehicle rental services at airports is expected to increase after the By Shelley Shan



Renowned, poet, critic Yang Mu dies at 79

2020-03-16

'PATH OF CREATION': Through more than two dozen collections of poetry and prose, Yang has inspired





Features Bilingual Pages

About Us Employment Contact Us

₹ RSS

Copyright © 1999-2020 The Taipei Times. All rights reserved.