

LEGAL ALERT

REOPENING OF CASINOS

February 20, 2020



Following the end of the 15 days suspension period, mandatorily determined by the MSAR Government, Macau’s Casinos were allowed to reopen from midnight on Thursday, 20 February. In this context, the MSAR Government has imposed the implementation of several new epidemic prevention measures in order to ensure a safe and healthy environment for both the casino employees and its patrons.

As the casinos gradually resume normal operations, the concessionaires and sub-concessionaires may request the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (“DICJ”) to postpone the opening of their properties or to only partially reopen them for a maximum period of 30 days. At the end of this period, all casinos must fully reopen in accordance with the legislation in force. This measure derives from the Gaming Law, whereas all properties must remain open every day of the year, but an operator may, under exceptional circumstances, apply for the suspension of gaming activities of one or more of its casinos.

In addition to the guidelines already in force prior to the closing of casinos, Macau Health Services have outlined the following measures in relation to (i) the management of employees; and (ii) the control of visitors:

A. Management of Employees

Travel history and contacts

On the first day of reopening, companies must be made aware of the employees’ travel and contact history:

- If the employee has traveled in the past 14 days to the Province of Hubei, the company shall duly notify the New Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center and the Health Services will proceed with further examination of the employee and determine the subsequent actions accordingly.
- If the employee has traveled in the past 14 days to any part of Mainland China, or if the employee had contact with a person with confirmed Coronavirus infection (but not deemed as a close contact by the

	<p>Health Services) the company shall ensure the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Constant use of mask in the workplace by the concerned employee; ◦ Daily updates on the concerned employee’s health condition and immediate medical assistance if needed; ◦ If the concerned employee works in the frontline (e.g. customer service), to temporarily assign logistic functions to the concerned employee; if that is not possible, to reduce contact with the public, as much as possible; ◦ To minimize contact with other persons in the workplace; ◦ To provide an adequate work environment - for instance, by reorganizing the offices and avoiding overcrowding of the workplace; ◦ To require from the concerned employee special attention to personal hygiene (e.g. washing hands frequently and to cover the mouth when coughing or sneezing).
<p>Employee health monitoring</p>	<p>All employees shall be subject to body temperature measurement when entering the workplace and provide a personal health declaration. In the event of any symptom (fever or any respiratory discomfort) the employee shall use a mask and resort to medical assistance as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Contact reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All employees shall use masks in the workplace and keep a distance of 1 meter between each other; • Minimize face-to-face meetings and conferences. If possible, meetings shall be held by videoconference or phone;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, to arrange for the employees to work separately, by shifts, and even at home; • All employees shall keep a distance of 1 meter of each other when eating, or companies shall arrange for a separator with at least 1 meter of height, that shall be disinfected after each meal; • Events, such as celebrations or birthday parties, are prohibited; • All plans to travel abroad, unless urgent, shall be halted.
Further recommendations	All recommendations issued by the MSAR Government, including the measures on personal and environment hygiene, shall be complied with.

B. Control of Visitors

Use of mask	All visitors shall be required to use a mask when entering.
Prohibit the entry of persons with fever and acute cough	Body temperature of visitors shall be measured upon entry. If the visitor has a fever or acute cough, his/her entry shall be prohibited.
Avoid overcrowding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All promotional activities for clients shall be halted; • Dispersion of crowds are required as much as possible; • Maintain clients separate with at least 1 meter between each other. In order to keep a safe distance between the gaming tables, each gaming area shall have at most half of the tables in operation; • If possible, to install a physical divisor between clients; • Visitors are required to observe all personal hygiene policies;

Furthermore, DICJ has instructed that standing bets are not permitted on gaming tables. A minimum distance must be maintained between the seats. If, for instance, a baccarat table has seven seats only three or four persons may bet simultaneously. Gaming machines in operation must be separated by one or two non-operative machines, to guarantee the distance between patrons.

Moreover, DICJ has announced that operators shall provide for transport for its employees in sufficient number and frequency, duly cleaning and disinfecting hourly.

Macau Government has also appealed for compliance with all health measures and to find the best possible plan that favors all involved parties, in order to guarantee the safety and health of its employees as well as the stability of Macau community.

This note was written on 20 February 2020, and the measures are under frequent review by the Government given the fluidity of the current situation. Please refer to news.gov.mo and www.ssm.gov.mo for updated measures.

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