

Kuwait Fights Coronavirus

Egypt 'fully respects' Kuwait's decision to stop visas as precaution against COVID-19

No infections detected amongst Egyptians in Kuwait: Ambassador

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Following up Kuwait's Interior Ministry decision to suspend the issuance of all visit and work visas for Egyptians until further notice, the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower stressed full respect of the Kuwaiti decision taken as part of precautionary measures to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Egyptians at border exits and suspending their entry visas. In addition, Qouni urged all members of the Egyptian community to follow medical prevention guidelines, avoid crowds and strictly follow related official statements.

Qouni underlined the significant care shown by the Egyptian authorities in response to the virus, noting that all related government bodies are closely monitoring the latest domestic and international developments and that President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi himself had met relevant ministers urging them to be fully ready to deal with the possibility of detecting any infections according to World Health Organization (WHO) regulations.

Qouni quoted Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Madbouli's confirmations that the Egyptian state will not hide anything and deal with the issue with full transparency, noting that Madbouli also urged relevant authorities to implement their part of the plan and coordinate daily with WHO.

Commenting on social media reports about the spread of the virus in Egypt, Qouni stressed that the total number of infected cases detected up to March 2 is only two, who were foreigners visiting Egypt and that they have been subjected to strict medical measures. He added the Egyptian health minister announced examining 1,443 suspected cases and they were all found free of any infections.

Furthermore, Qouni underlined that the health ministry has examined all the people who had mingled with the Canadian and French nationals found infected on arriving from Egypt. "There is no proof that these cases got infected in Egypt, and both countries have so far not imposed any additional precautionary measures on other people arriving from Egypt, other than the usual ones imposed on all nationalities," Qouni underlined.

Finally, Qouni stressed that there is no good for Egypt in withholding information about the disease spreading in Egypt, especially when Egypt is fully committed to WHO standards and regulations and has always been

fighting bird flu and swine flu, for instance. He also urged all media and social media networks to only procure information from reliable official sources such as WHO, which is closely working with the Egyptian government in this regard.

Separately, well-informed sources said a patient recently suspected to be infected with COVID-19 in the ministry of public works is an Egyptian who had just returned to Kuwait. The sources added that the employee was sweating and suffered from severe coughing, which made his fellow workers report him to the health ministry, which in turn advised the man to have himself checked at Jaber Hospital, where he was advised to go to Farwaniya Hospital instead. The sources added that the man's colleagues panicked and left the ministry building in fear that he had COVID-19 symptoms. In addition, denying that the MPW premises were evacuated, the sources stressed that it is not clear yet whether the man is infected with the virus or suffers from another ailment. The ministry has not confirmed the report as of yesterday.

In other news, the Ministry of Health (MoH) announced providing eight golf karts to serve the citizens quarantined at Khairan Resort. MoH assistant undersecretary for public services affairs Abdul Aziz Al-Tashah said the karts were made available to provide all comforts for quarantined cases 24/7.

No good for Egypt in withholding information



KUWAIT: A man is examined at the ministry of education's private education department yesterday.



A man uses a hand sanitizer provided for visitors at the building. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Extra precautions taken at the gate of the ministry of education's private education department.



A man is examined at the ministry of education's private education department yesterday.

Kuwait 'private education' takes measures against COVID-19 infection

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The ministry of education's private education department is implementing strict rules for both visitors and employees to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The entrance is blocked by several security personnel preventing anyone from entering the facilities and dealing with employees directly. The rule is that all transactions must start from the entrance, and all papers will be screened from there and will be delivered to the respective employees or officers for signing or completion.

them. Employees are directed to undergo temperature checks in a room inside the compound, and anyone found to have fever or any symptoms will not be permitted to enter the facility. Facemasks and sanitizers are also provided to employees for free at the entry gate. "We have placed this area under strict regulations to prevent any sort of disease to penetrate and affect our daily activities here. We are concerned of the situation and want to help the government in making our country and its people safe at all times," Mutairi said.

Most ministries and major companies in Kuwait are doing the same to prevent the spread of the virus. Most biometric systems have been replaced by cards, canteens that were open to employees can now only be visited by designated staff, and most people walking around are now wearing masks. The Public Authority for Food and Nutrition has instructed workers at restaurants and hotels in Kuwait to wear masks and gloves and instructed them to provide sanitizers for their clients.

"We can help the government resolve the problem of coronavirus. The number of those infected is increasing daily, but God willing, vaccines will be discovered soon to dispel the fear from people," Mutairi noted.

Special circular for foreign, bilingual schools on e-learning platforms

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Education's Private Education Department released the following circular yesterday, signed by its director Sanad Al-Mutairi, explaining the stipulations under the Cabinet's decision to suspend classes as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus spread. The following is a transcript of the circular:

In compliance with the state's plan to fight the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and as part of the precautionary measures taken in Kuwait to limit the spread of this virus and ensure using all safety and prevention means, the Cabinet decided suspending all government and private schools and universities for two weeks in the period of March 1 to 12.

The Cabinet's decision also stipulates suspending work at various private schools for all students and administrative and teaching staff. As part of the periodic revision the private education department conducts regarding various precautionary measures designed to achieve greater good and effective measures to ensure the safety of students and all staff members in private schools, we have decided the following:

- 1- Cancelling the previous circular issued to all foreign and bilingual schools under number 221568 dated 1/3/2020, namely not allowing teaching and administrative staff members to go to school during the suspension period decided by the Cabinet - March 1-12.
2- All private school students and staff are banned from showing up to school during the suspension period.
3- Private foreign and bilingual schools are allowed to activate their e-learning platforms in a way that ensures students contact teachers based on the following conditions:
a. The private school should already have a preset plan to activate the e-learning platform, for which all teaching staff members had been already trained.
b. Full commitment that the e-learning activation plan is administered through the school premises without the presence of any teaching staff member there.
c. Not to mandate students to use these platforms, and according to this circular, make it optional for students.
d. Activities used for e-learning platforms will be limited to developing students' skills in terms of training, thinking, research, creativity and revision related to the pre-suspension curriculum distribution plan, which will develop students' knowledge acquisition without including those parts of the curriculum that had been planned to be covered during the suspension. In case any of these parts are necessary for training and revision purposes, teachers and schools will be committed to re-explain them after the suspension.
e. Private schools and teachers to be responsible for activating the e-learning platforms will be jointly committed to observe public order and behavior and will also abide by the private education department's regulations concerning checking educational textbooks and programs.

- 4- Taking the suspension period into consideration, all schools included in this circular will abide by adjusting their 2019-2020 school year plans and notify the private education department with the adjustments within two weeks after resuming school.
5- This circular will be effective on issuance and will cancel contradictions in previous ones. Included schools will fully abide with its contents. Penal measures will be applied against schools violating the above regulations.



KUWAIT: A scan of the circular obtained by Kuwait Times yesterday.

Coronavirus in Kuwait: What we know so far

KUWAIT: Kuwait has so far recorded 56 cases infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which all are for Kuwaiti patients who returned to the country from Iran. All cases are in stable condition and are recovering in quarantined locations designated by the government for this purpose, the Ministry of Health confirmed. Kuwait is taking measures to test Kuwaitis coming from infected areas for potential infection.

Italy, Iraq and Iran. In the meantime, Kuwait sent charter flights to bring back Kuwaitis from infected areas, mainly Iran, Italy and Thailand, and test them before entering the country. Meanwhile, authorities have reportedly stopped issuing all kinds of visas (visit, work, etc) for Egyptian nationals, while allowing those who already have a visa to enter only after they take tests in Cairo before coming to Kuwait. In the meantime, Iraq has suspended flights from Kuwait, whereas Saudi Arabia stopped issuing umrah visas for all nationalities as a precautionary measures.

precautions against the potential spread of the virus. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has taken measures to make sure that facial masks, hand sanitizers and other goods remain accessible to the public. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has suspended classes for the first two weeks of March at all public and private schools (for both students and teaching staffs). In the meantime, the Civil Service Commission suspended the biometric fingerprint system for staff attendance until further notice.

96049698 - 99048619. Meanwhile, the Education Ministry set the following hotlines to receive inquiries on school closures related to the anti-coronavirus measures: 24970967 (24/7 hotline) - 51575591 (Capital Educational Zone) - 51576117 (Hawally Educational Zone) - 51576576 (Farwaniya Educational Zone) - 51577055 (Jahra Educational Zone) - 51577655 (Ahmadi Educational Zone) - 51577951 (Mubarak Al-Kabeer Educational Zone) - 51578171 (Religious Studies Department) - 51588599 (Private Education Department) - 51592515 (Services Department) - 51594544 (Public Relations Department).

Countries' ban list

As a precautionary measure against the spread of the virus, Kuwait has suspended flights from and to China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, Japan,

Precautions

State departments have been on high alert to take

Hotlines

The Ministry of Health has set the following hotlines to receive inquiries about the coronavirus 24/7: 24970967 -