

# COVID-19 Food & Beverage Impact: Monitoring Update

21 August 2020



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As more markets enter the recovery phase, there has been a reduction in numbers in some markets, while others have seen sudden spikes, attributed to imported cases or a likely second wave. However, the number of infections is largely coming under control and supply chain issues are gradually being resolved, and more focus will be on economic recovery, consumer behaviour and other issues.

Our new dashboard provides an overview of the status of recovery for each country's food supply chain in the areas of logistics, manufacturing, import/export and food service. The status is determined by the country's measures and the table below.

Status	Logistics	Manufacturing	Import/Export	Food Service
	Logistics operate as usual	All food factories are allowed to operate as usual with full capacity	Import and export activities are allowed to operate as usual	All food services are allowed to operate as usual (dine in, takeaway, delivery)
	Logistics operations are restricted (with exemptions for food and its essential supplies)	All food factories are allowed to operate with controlled capacity and/or or some of the food factories are only allowed to operate with controlled capacity	Import and export activities are restricted and yet to resume full operations as usual	All food services are allowed to operate (only for takeaway, delivery) and/or or some of the food services are allowed to provide dine-in service
	Logistics operations are restricted	Limited food factories are allowed to operate with controlled capacity	Import and export activities are restricted for certain food products	Limited food services are allowed to operate (only for takeaway, delivery)

# STATUS OF RECOVERY

Visit [www.covid-19.foodindustry.asia/](http://www.covid-19.foodindustry.asia/) for the latest COVID-19-related information on the food supply chain.

## ENTERING RECOVERY PHASE

	Logistics	Manufacturing	Import/Export	Food Service
China				
Taiwan				
Malaysia				
Sri Lanka				
Singapore				
Laos				
Japan				
South Korea				

*Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this table is reliable. However, as global regulations often involve legal uncertainties and differences in interpretation, we are therefore not liable for any loss or loss or damage resulting from the use of the information contained herein. For more information, please refer to the explanation in the in-country page.*

# STATUS OF RECOVERY

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## ENTERING RECOVERY PHASE

	Logistics	Manufacturing	Import/Export	Food Service
Vietnam				
Brunei Darussalam				

# STATUS OF RECOVERY

Visit [www.covid-19.foodindustry.asia/](http://www.covid-19.foodindustry.asia/) for the latest COVID-19-related information on the food supply chain.

## RESTRICTIONS STILL IN PLACE

	Logistics	Manufacturing	Import/Export	Food Service
India				
Indonesia				
Philippines				
Thailand				
Myanmar				
Australia				
New Zealand				

## CONTENTS

*Click on a country to be directed straight to the page.*

### ENTERING RECOVERY PHASE

- |             |                      |                |          |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1. China    | 4. Sri Lanka         | 7. Japan       | 10. Laos |
| 2. Taiwan   | 5. Singapore         | 8. South Korea |          |
| 3. Malaysia | 6. Brunei Darussalam | 9. Vietnam     |          |

### RESTRICTIONS STILL IN PLACE

- |                |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. India       | 4. Thailand  | 7. New Zealand |
| 2. Indonesia   | 5. Myanmar   |                |
| 3. Philippines | 6. Australia |                |



#### **BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE FOOD E-COMMERCE ECOSYSTEM: FOOD SAFETY IN THE NEW NORMAL**

Webinar | 27 Aug 2020 | 2PM-3PM (GMT +8)

The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly impacted how people shop for their necessities, and how businesses transform their business models.

What is **the implications of COVID-19 toward food e-commerce** and how can we ensure **food safety of online food sales** during and after this pandemic?

**REGISTER NOW**



#### **CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION IN A POST-COVID19 WORLD: CHINA**

Webinar | 4 Sep 2020 | 11AM-12PM (GMT +8)

China has emerged from COVID-19 with some very different consumer behaviours: fresh is surging driven by home-cooking, QSRs are delivering cooking kits to support novice cooks, conscious protein consumption is trending and consumers are looking for authenticity.

Join FIA and Ai Palette for a free webinar on **China consumers in the post COVID-19**, as well as the opportunities present in the new normal.

**REGISTER NOW**

FOOD FOR THE FUTURE TV



FIA and ASN Media present Food for the Future - an in-depth look at the challenges & latest solutions to the problem of feeding rapidly growing Asian populations.

The four episodes are a combination of interviews with some of the region's leading food and beverage sector thinkers and innovators on the topics of Health & Nutrition, Innovation, Sustainability & Resilience.

## EPISODE 2: INNOVATION



**Jiang Yifan**, FIA's Head of Science & Regulatory Affairs, shares her thoughts about regulatory frameworks, collaboration for innovation, regional alignment, supply chains and related issues.



We look at the growing interest in alternatively grown meat, and the many environmental, health and sustainability potential benefits, in a discussion with Hong Kong-based **Avant Meats**.



It's an exciting time with an explosion of food production entrepreneurs, alternative meats and proteins, natural ingredients, and plant-based options. But how can these ideas be scaled up to provide solutions on a global basis? **Bühler & Givaudan's** Innovation Centre in Singapore has that solution in one lab, under one roof.



The incidence in Asia of diabetes has reached epidemic proportions. We talk to **Tate & Lyle** about innovation, collaboration and providing food manufacturers with healthy ingredients in order to "improve lives for generations".



## CHINA

The China General Administration of Customs tightened imported measures for frozen shrimp from Ecuador.



### MEASURES

- On 14 August, the China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) <sup>1</sup> announced stricter import measures for frozen shrimp from Ecuador. It will now require the local businesses to receive a certification from the authorities in the importing country to declare that sanitary controls have been putting in place for production, packaging and transportation of the products. In July, the packaging and containers of imported shrimp from Ecuador have been tested positive for COVID-19. Since then, the GACC has strengthened screening controls on imported products. The industry shall continue to monitor the progress of the issue development.
- On 17 and 18 August, the GACC updated the list of meat eligible for export to China from countries or regions that meet the requirements of assessment and review <sup>2</sup>. Temporary import suspension has been voluntarily raised by a New Zealand-based meat product exporter, a UK-based pork product exporter and a Canada-based pork product exporter. Meanwhile, importation of pork products from a Germany-based company has resumed. In addition, the importation of poultry products for certain Argentina-based companies has resumed with specific requirements.



## TAIWAN

Updates in Taiwan.

### MEASURES

- On 19 August, it was reported that a traveller had been tested positive after returning to Laos from Taiwan. The individual was previously tested negative before leaving Taiwan, however, the test result showed positive while the traveller arriving at Laos. In response to this reported case, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) has launched investigations into the case and conducted contact tracing. In addition, similar cases have been reported in Vietnam and Shanghai, CECC will launch an investigation and conduct contact tracing on the relevant cases.
- Meanwhile, a report on [Retail Foods in Taiwan](#) has been published by the USDA. The report provides analysis on the current landscape of Taiwan retail sector and sales trends. One of the key highlight from the report is that the COVID-19 has negatively impacted the overall retail sector, however, as COVID-19 recovers, the in-store sales is recovering too.





## MALAYSIA

The government issued a new and expanded list of returnees exempted from paying fees for quarantine.



### MEASURES

- On 20 August, the Health Ministry released a new and expanded list of Malaysians exempted from paying fees for quarantine. The list include the following individuals;
  - Returnee who is holding disability card issued under Persons with Disabilities Act 2008
  - Malaysian from B40 group
  - A Malaysian (parents/spouses/children aged 18 and below) of a Malaysian in B40 group returning together from overseas
  - Malaysian student from B40 family
  - Malaysian aged 6 and below
  - Malaysian aged 12 and below returning alone
  - Malaysian returning immediately from prison released abroad or Malaysian who has no income source
- The definition of B40 will be further defined by the Finance Minister.



## SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka delayed opening airport for tourists.

### MEASURES

- The government announced the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) will not be reopened soon.
- It was originally scheduled to be reopened in August with no mandatory quarantine but tests. However, the reopening of airport has been suspended due to spike of reported cases.
- No exact date for the reopening of the airport was announced





## SINGAPORE

**Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) required for workers that reside in dormitories, workers in the construction, marine and process sectors and personnel who go into the work sites.**

### MEASURES

- Workers are required to go through RRT every 14 days.
- On 1 August, the Health Promotion Board's Swab Registration System (SRS) was launched to allow employers to schedule their workers for RRT.
- Workers who are residing in dormitories that have yet to be cleared will be added to SRS once their dormitories are cleared and employers will be required to ensure that the workers are scheduled for RRT.



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**Further ease of restrictions from 17 August onwards.**

### MEASURES

- The measures are part of the country's de-escalation plan to ease the restrictions in a phased approach.
- Mass gatherings are allowed up to 200 individuals.
- A higher capacity is permitted at arcades, playgrounds, swimming pools, cinemas and elderly centers.



## JAPAN

Japan and Malaysia agreed to consider easing travel restrictions for expatriates in early September.

### MEASURES

- On 14 Aug, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced that the government and Malaysia government agreed to consider easing travel restrictions for expatriates in early of September of 2020, provided precautionary measures (e.g. 14-day self-quarantine) will be taken.
- Currently, Japan is banning foreign nationals from 146 countries and regions from entering Japan. However, the government has started the discussion with 16 countries/regions, including Malaysia to work on the resumption of travel.



## SOUTH KOREA

The government continues to tighten measures in containing spreads of COVID-19.

### MEASURES

- On 16 August, the social distancing level for Seoul City and Gyeonggi Province has been raised to Level 2. The Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (KCDC) advised residents of Seoul and Gyeonggi areas to follow the following guidelines;
- Do not go to work if you are feeling sick
  - Public is advised to contact KCDC call center by dialing 1339 or contact local public health center/screening clinic
- Postpone/cancel non-essential activities, including outings, social gatherings, events or travel
  - Essential activities include getting medical care, purchasing necessities, or going to work.
  - Public is advised not to dine in at restaurants/cafes
  - Home training is recommended in replacing gyms activities
  - For social activities, public is advised to conduct them via internet
  - Public is advised to purchase via online shopping rather than visiting physical stores
- Follow infection prevention guidelines while going out
  - Do not visit 3C's areas (crowded, confined, and close-contact places with poor ventilation)
  - Wearing masks
  - Maintaining social distancing
  - No droplet-producing activities (shouting, singing out loud, chanting)
  - No physical contact with others such as handshakes/hugs





## VIETNAM

On 19 August, the government launched the National Reporting Platform.

### MEASURES

- The platform will play an important role in building an e-government and now has 1,000 public services available on the platform.
- The platform is aimed to help integrate technology in the synthesising and reporting and with that, to promote decision-making and governance based on digital data that can be tracked in real-time.
- The platform will also help to monitor the progress of goals and tasks assigned to local agencies or ministries more efficiently as the data can be updated in real-time.



## LAOS

Government extended COVID-19 preventive measures to 31 August.

### MEASURES

- Besides extending current measures, the government also instituted a ban on international charter flights.
- The government remains vigilant toward potential imported cases of COVID-19 by strictly controlling traveller into country.





# INDIA

The Unlock 3 continues in place.



## MEASURES

- The phase ‘‘Unlock 3’’ continues in place and all activities shall adhere to the requirements as stipulated in the Guidelines for Phased Re-opening (Unlock 3) <sup>1</sup>, including:
  - All activities in areas outside Containment Zones will be permitted, excluding prohibited activities such as academic, entertainment, sports, social, political, religious-related events, metro rail and international air travel of passengers (except those permitted by Ministry of Home Affairs). Starting from 5 August, yoga institutes and gymnasiums have been permitted to resume operation with adherence to the relevant Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) <sup>2</sup>.
  - Lockdown remains in force in the Containment Zones until 31 August, 2020 and only essential activities will be allowed, where no movement of people in or out of these zones, except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services.
  - The local government may impose restrictions on certain activities outside the Containment Zones, as deemed necessary.
- In addition, the National Directives for COVID-19 Management shall continue remain in force throughout the country.
- At the same time, on 19 August, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) issued Guidelines on Safe Ophthalmology Practices in COVID-19 Scenario <sup>3</sup> to outline the preventive and response measures to be observed to minimise and avoid the spread of COVID-19 in eye care facilities.

## IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- For food sector, the food manufacturing activities remain unhampered. Based on the Guidelines, there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of persons and goods. No additional approval/permission will be required for these forms of movements.
- However, some of the challenges still being observed in terms of food retail. As of 14 August, it was reported that
  - Kolkata: Vegetable prices have increased by 30% to 40 % due to the extended lockdown.
  - Cochin: Limited supplies and availability of essential foodstuffs due to the ongoing lockdown in West Cochin



# INDONESIA

On 18 August, the Indonesian Trade Ministry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada's Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) to cooperate on export promotion.

## MEASURES

- The MoU is aimed at promoting the exports of processed food products and information and technology services. The partnership will have a special focus on women-led small businesses, capacity building and technical assistance for exporters, especially small and medium enterprises. At the same time, both economies seek to exchange information on export development and trade-related opportunities.
- Indonesia is the largest export market for Canada in the Southeast Asia region. Past cooperation between both economies includes apparel, coffee, footwear, processed food and services.



# PHILIPPINES

**Government imposed General Community Quarantine (GCQ) for Metro Manila and four nearby provinces.**



## MEASURES

- On 17 August, the government announced that General Community Quarantine (GCQ) will be imposed in the Metro Manila and four nearby provinces, including Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan until 31 August. These areas were previously placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).
- In addition, Nueva Ecija, Batangas and Quezon provinces along with cities of Iloilo, Cebu, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue, and Talisay and the municipalities of Minglanilla and Consolacion in Cebu province would also be placed under GCQ.
- The rest of the Philippines would be put under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ).
- The announced community quarantine will continue in place until 31 August.

## IMPACT ON FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Under GCQ, businesses and employees involved in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food manufacturing and food supply chain businesses (supermarkets, grocery stores, food preparation establishments for take-away & delivery only, food delivery services) are allowed to operate at full operational capacity. However, restaurants and cafes are only allowed to operate with 30% venue capacity and the operation
- Under MGCQ, similar to GCQ, all the businesses and employees involved in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food manufacturing and food supply chain businesses (supermarkets, grocery stores, food preparation establishments for take-away & delivery only, food delivery services) to operate at full operational capacity with relaxation given to the venue capacity for restaurants. A maximum of fifty percent (50%) of seating capacity has been given to the restaurants and cafes for the operations. shall strictly adhere to the social distancing protocols.





## THAILAND

On 21 August, the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) resolved to extend the state of emergency to 30 September.

### MEASURES

- The extension is carried out to ensure effectiveness of the measures that are applied against the pandemic.
- The CCSA will go through considerations to further lift restrictions under social distancing order for buses and other public transportations, schools and stadiums.



## MYANMAR

On 20 August, the Ministry of Health and Sports imposed stay-at-home order for Sittwe township following a spike of local transmission cases.

### MEASURES

- Residents in the township are required to remain in residences with the exception civil servants, employed staff and factory workers. Only one person from a household is allowed to do essential shopping.
- Bus lines and flights to Sittwe have been suspended.
- Yangon regional government considers putting in quarantine requirements for those who travel from Sittwe to Yangon.





# AUSTRALIA

Re-introduction of lockdown measures threatens to disrupt the domestic food supply chain.



## MEASURES

- The nation has signed a deal with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca to secure a potential COVID-19 vaccine, joining a growing list of countries lining up supplies of the drug. If proven successful, the government intends to manufacture the vaccine locally and provide all Australians early access to the vaccine for free.
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison suggested that the coronavirus vaccine should be mandated for all Australians (sans medical exemptions), wading into a heated ethical debate.<sup>1 2</sup>
- Many internal state borders have remained closed to contain the spread of the virus, with Victoria and New South Wales accounting for almost all new cases. It is likely that most states and territories will keep them shut for months to come.<sup>3</sup>
- Australia plans to allow foreign students to return from September, as part of a trial that aims to reboot the country's lucrative international education sector.<sup>4</sup>

## IMPACT TO FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- Closure of Australia's internal borders has severely hampered the recovery of the domestic aviation market, and are causing an “enormous hardship” for farmers.
- A major Australian supermarket warned of a nationwide food shortage and widespread panic buying, following the re-introduction of stage 4 lockdown restrictions.
- The Supermarkets Taskforce, an alliance of major supermarkets focused on preventing supply shortages during this pandemic, argued that the restrictions will disrupt the grocery supply chain across the country. Victorian distribution centres and abattoirs have been forced to cut production by a third.
- The taskforce has been asked to escalate these concerns to PM Morrison. Meanwhile, local governments have ensured that they will “find ways around” the restrictions to ensure that food supplies still get through.<sup>5</sup>





## NEW ZEALAND

Re-emergence of the virus in Auckland city sends the nation into a frenzy.



### MEASURES

- On 20 August, New Zealand reported five new confirmed cases of coronavirus in the last day, as the nation battles a fresh outbreak in Auckland city.<sup>1</sup> Auckland has been on Alert Level 3 ever since the abrupt resurgence of infections, with a 12-day lockdown extension until 26 August. The rest of the nation continues to be on Alert Level 2.<sup>2</sup>
- Health officials have ruled out the possibility that the source of this outbreak came from frozen food items or freight. The origin of the latest outbreak remains unknown, and transmission through the environment in the cold storage was one theory being considered.
- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has postponed the country's general election by four weeks to 17 October. The election was initially scheduled to be held on 19 September.<sup>3</sup>

### IMPACT TO FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

- The New Zealand Food and Grocery Council spoke out on how the re-introduction of the restrictions may create domestic supply issues.
- Critical food engineers and other essential food workers have applied for exemptions with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and have yet to be approved, stalling operations at food factories.
- Unlike the previous time New Zealand was on Alert Level 3, exemptions for essential workers are now less straightforward and the exemption application system created by the MoH is allegedly underprepared and overwhelmed.



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