

OFFICIAL EVENT NOTICE



February 18, 2020

UPDATE ON THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK **- CHANGES TO ADEX OCEAN VISION 2020**

Dear Esteemed Exhibitor,

Due to the increasing numbers of cases of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) with evidence of local transmissions, the Singapore government raised the country's risk assessment level from **DORSCON Yellow** to **DORSCON Orange** on 7 February 2020. As of today, the Ministry of Health has confirmed a total of **75 cases** of the virus across the country.

Under the Disease Outbreak Response System Condition, or DORSCON, an **Orange** alert means that the outbreak is deemed to have moderate to high public health impact. In light of the DORSCON Orange code, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI)*, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) advisory to cancel or defer nonessential large-scale events, **Underwater360°, the organiser of Asia Dive Expo (ADEX), has taken the decision to postpone the event, originally scheduled for April 17-19, 2020. Underwater360° will be announcing the new event dates as soon as they are available.**

This decision has been reached after an extensive consultation with the relevant government authorities and agencies in Singapore, and in consideration of the challenges faced by the diving and dive tourism sectors due to restrictions on travel and tourism across Asia-Pacific as well as internationally.

Statement from Singapore Tourism Board

"We are working closely with Underwater360° to support the continued success of Asia Dive Expo. We are committed to standing by our MICE industry to provide the support required, and we believe that Singapore's reputation as a preferred destination for MICE events remains strong. The health and safety of locals, visitors and industry partners remain a priority and we will continue to monitor the situation."

— **Mr Andrew Phua**
Director of Exhibitions and Conference
Singapore Tourism Board

Underwater360° would like to offer assurance that we will continue to work in partnership with the relevant government authorities and agencies to take all necessary measures in accordance with the latest advisories published by the Singapore Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Trade and Industry as we take the safety and health of all our partners, stakeholders, exhibitors, speakers and visitors at utmost importance.

We thank you for all your support, cooperation and patience while we try our best to navigate through this international calamity, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused due to these measures.

Yours sincerely,
ADEX Asia Dive Expo
Organising Committee

*Refer to the attached APPENDIX.

APPENDIX

15 February 2020

**Advisory for businesses on large-scale events amidst the COVID-19
(Coronavirus Disease 2019) situation**

1 The Ministry of Health (MOH) had stepped up the risk assessment from DORSCON Yellow to DORSCON Orange on 7 February, in response to the discovery of new local cases without any links to previous cases or travel history to China. At this stage, there continues to be no evidence of widespread local transmission.

2 Businesses should maintain normalcy, as long as the necessary precautions are taken.

a. As advised by MOH, businesses are advised to cancel or defer non-essential large-scale events to reduce the risk of community transmission of COVID-19. The importance of the events differs according to the needs and priorities of the respective organisations.

b. Large scale events refer to events with more than 1000 attendees. As a rough guideline, non-essential large-scale events refer to events like Dinner and Dance and Family Day with more than 1000 attendees.

c. Smaller-scale events such as training and development courses and internal townhall meetings can continue.

3 Business should continue to put in place the necessary precautions as advised by MOH:

- Carry out temperature screening;
- Look out for respiratory symptoms such as cough or runny nose, and deny entry to unwell individuals;
- Remind participants not to attend if they have recent travel history to mainland China or are under leave of absence, and require a travel declaration, if possible;
- Ensure that event venues are ventilated and are adequately equipped with facilities for hand washing;
- Increase the frequency of cleaning commonly used areas; and
- Maintain a registration list of participants, if practical.

4 As the COVID-19 situation is still evolving, businesses are encouraged to closely monitor the developments and related advisories. For the latest updates, please visit the MOH website at www.moh.gov.sg.



8 FEBRUARY 2020

ADVISORY FOR LARGE-SCALE EVENTS AMIDST THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS SITUATION

1. The Ministry of Health (MOH) had stepped up our risk assessment from DORSCON Yellow to DORSCON Orange on 7 February, as there are now a few local cases without any links to previous cases or travel history to China.
2. With the heightened risk posture of DORSCON Orange, MOH advises event organisers to cancel or defer non-essential large-scale events.
3. For event organisers who choose to proceed, MOH advises that necessary precautionary measures be taken. These include:
 - Carrying out temperature screening.
 - Looking out for respiratory symptoms such as cough or shortness of breath.
 - Denying entry to unwell individuals.
 - Reminding participants not to attend the event if they are unwell, have been placed on leave of absence (LOA) or have recent travel history to mainland China in the last 14 days. This could be in the form of pre-event reminders, prominent notices at entrances to an event, notices during pre- or onsite registration.
 - Ensuring that event venues are ventilated and are adequately equipped with facilities for hand washing.
 - Increasing the frequency of cleaning of commonly used areas, such as washrooms, registration and payment counters, and dining areas.
 - Maintaining a registration list of participants (if practicable).
4. For events participants, MOH recommends the following precautions:
 - Individuals who are unwell should not attend. They should avoid public spaces and contact with others, and instead seek medical attention. Any staff or participant who becomes unwell during the event should leave immediately to seek appropriate medical attention.
 - Individuals placed on LOA should not attend events. They are strongly advised to remain at home and minimise their time spent in public spaces.
 - Individuals with recent travel history to mainland China, in particular Hubei province, within the last 14 days should not attend.

- Individuals who are well do not need to wear masks.
- Individuals should remain vigilant and practise good personal hygiene, such as washing their hands regularly and avoiding touching their face.
- Avoid shaking hands with other event participants, and consider adopting alternative greetings.

5. As the 2019 novel coronavirus situation is evolving rapidly, MOH will continue to monitor the situation closely, and provide updates and further advice when necessary.

6. For the latest information on the 2019 novel coronavirus situation, please visit the Singapore Ministry of Health website at www.moh.gov.sg.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
8 FEBRUARY 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) FOR ORGANISERS OF LARGE-SCALE EVENTS

1. What is considered a large-scale event?

As a rough guideline, event organisers of events with more than 1000 attendees should put in place the necessary precautions as advised by the Ministry of Health. Organisers of smaller events could consider implementing the precautionary measures where practicable.

2. What types of events should be considered non-essential events?

The importance of various events differs according to the needs and priorities of respective organisations. However, examples of non-essential events that organisations may wish to consider postponing or cancelling could include dinner and dance events, as well as family day events.