

Mexico's Ministry of Health extends extraordinary actions to face COVID-19 to May 30, 2020

April 23, 2020

Following the escalation to Phase 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic in Mexico, on April 21, 2020, the Federal Ministry of Health (*Secretaría de Salud*) (**SSA**) published in the Federal Register (*Diario Oficial de la Federación*) (**DOF**) an Order amending the order establishing extraordinary actions to address the health emergency generated by the virus SARS-CoV2, published in the DOF on March 31, 2020 (the **Extension Order**). The order is effective as of April 21, 2020.

On March 31, 2020, the SSA issued an Order effectively suspending all non-essential activities until April 30, 2020 (the **Second Extraordinary Measures Order**).

The Extension Order amends the Second Extraordinary Measures Order to, among others:

1. extend the suspension period from April 30 to **May 30, 2020**;
2. establish an early end date to the suspension period for May 18, 2020, for those municipalities that on the date of the Extension Order show a low or null transmission of the virus. The SSA will establish criteria to determine the spread intensity in the municipalities within Mexico;
3. introduce changes to the epidemiology oversight system;
4. order State governments to:
 - i. maintain a daily report on the occupation, availability, and attention to respiratory syndrome or any other reports requested by the SSA;
 - ii. instrument preventive and control measures in accordance with the criteria issued by the SSA;
 - iii. establish restrictions on mobility between municipalities with different transmission degrees in accordance with the guidelines/criteria issued by the SSA; and
 - iv. guarantee the implementation of measures directed by the SSA.
5. State government and any other members of the National Health System (private sector included) are responsible for the implementation of hospital reconversion and expansion to guarantee adequate and timely medical attention.

The Extension Order does not change, expand, or otherwise relax any existing rules on the suspension of non-essential activities. No further guidance or clarification on "essential activities" is included.

All previous measures and actions ordered by the SSA before the date of the Extension Order (including but not limited to social distancing, stay-at-home, among others) to the extent not amended by the Extension Order, remain in effect without change.

Businesses and companies should be mindful that local and municipal authorities may issue further orders or restrictions following the extension of the suspension period and the escalation to Phase 3 of the pandemic in Mexico.

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