

## **Infectious Disease Prevention Measures for Foreign Workers Returning Home on Vacation and Reentering Taiwan**

Following a recent spike in dengue fever cases in Taiwan and overseas, the Ministry of Labor has launched a health education campaign to remind foreign workers about preventative measures to avoid being infected by such infectious diseases, thereby minimizing the possibility of such illnesses being imported into the country and impacting Taiwan's efforts to prevent their spread.

1. Prior to foreign workers returning to their country of origin on vacation: Workers should be reminded to take measures to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes, for example by wearing light colored long-sleeved clothing and rubbing or spraying mosquito-repellant on exposed parts of the body. It is also important to not eat uncooked food, drink tap water and regularly wash one's hands with soap and water.
2. Foreign workers arriving in Taiwan: When foreign workers return to their countries of origin or return to Taiwan if they develop suspected infectious disease symptoms, including a fever, headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle or joint pain, a rash, diarrhea or vomiting, they should inform quarantine personnel at their international port of entry and observe any related infection prevention measures.
3. After foreign workers return to Taiwan: Labor brokerages and employers will be asked to observe their health status for 14 days after returning. If in that period workers develop any infectious disease symptoms medical assistance should be provided as soon as possible. At that time, the worker should inform medical practitioners of his or her travel history to facilitate the doctor's diagnosis, reporting and where necessary the intervention of the health authorities.

The Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (TCDC) under the Ministry of Health and Welfare has instructed National Taiwan University Hospital to establish the "New Southbound Health Center" which provides an online live translation service in multiple languages so foreign workers can seek consultations on illnesses, chronic disease management and other health-related issues. Please feel free to call the center at any time.

The TCDC website has already introduced a "Foreigners' Health" section (<https://www.cdc.gov.tw>; homepage / international travel and health foreign national health management), providing health education resources in multiple languages.

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