



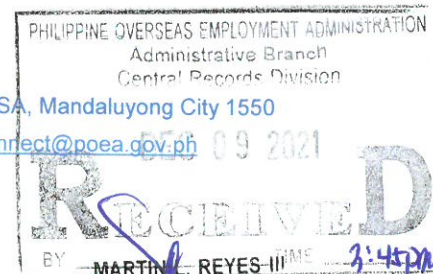
Philippine  
Overseas  
Employment  
Administration

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Labor and  
Employment

BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1550

Website: [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph) E-mail: [connect@poea.gov.ph](mailto:connect@poea.gov.ph)

Hotlines: 8722-1144, 8722-1155



ADVISORY NO. 165  
Series of 2021

### Israel to Ban Entry of Foreigners from all Countries over Omicron Variant

Israel reported on 27 November 2021 that it would ban the entry of all foreigners into the country, making it the first country to shut its borders completely in response to a new and potentially more contagious coronavirus Omicron variant. It said that it would use counter-terrorism phone-tracking technology in order to contain the spread of the new variant.

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said in a statement that the ban, pending government approval, would last for 14 days. Officials hope that within that period, there will be more information on how effective COVID-19 vaccines are against Omicron, which was first detected in South Africa and has been dubbed a "variant of concern" by the World Health Organization.

Israelis entering the country, including those who are vaccinated, will be required to quarantine. The ban will come into effect at midnight between 28 November 2021 and 29 November 2021. A travel ban on foreigners coming from most African states was earlier imposed on 26 November 2021.

The above mentioned counter-terrorism agency's phone-tracking technology will be used to locate carriers of the new variant in order to curb its transmission to others. Used on and off since March 2020, the surveillance technology matched virus carriers' locations against other mobile phones nearby to determine with whom they had come into contact. Israel's Supreme Court this year limited the scope of its use after civil rights groups mounted challenges over privacy concerns.

The variant, which has also been detected in Belgium, Botswana, Hong Kong, Italy, Germany and Britain, has sparked global concern and a wave of travel curbs, although epidemiologists say such restrictions may be too late to stop Omicron from circulating globally.

Israel has so far confirmed one case of Omicron, with seven suspected cases. The Health Ministry has not said whether the confirmed case was vaccinated. According to the Ministry, three of the seven suspected cases were fully vaccinated and that the three had not returned from travel abroad recently.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

  
BERNARD P. OLALIA  
Administrator

Source : Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

01 December 2021

