



## GLOBEX UPDATE HEALTH & BENEFITS

*Events, developments, and opportunities in the international marketplace.*

### Qatar's Shura Council approves a draft law on mandatory health insurance



The Shura Council has approved a draft law regulating healthcare services within Qatar, that also includes compulsory health insurance. According to the draft law, the Ministry of Public Health shall set standards for providing healthcare services in government and private health facilities as well as compulsory health insurance. The ministry will lay out an integrated, high-quality, efficient, and sustainable health system and develop and maintain compulsory health insurance. Health insurance will be mandatory to ensure the provision of basic healthcare services to expatriates and visitors to the state. An entry visa or residence permit for an expatriate or visitor may be granted or renewed, and expatriates may be employed, only after submitting proof of compulsory insurance for the duration of the stay in Qatar.

### Every adult in India is now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine shots

India will let all citizens over 18 have COVID-19 vaccinations from May 1st, in response to the record-high cases in the country. India has administered more than 127 million vaccine doses - the most after US and China. With hospitals running out of space and India's authorities reporting more than 300,000 cases each day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that he would extend the vaccine rollout beyond healthcare workers and the country's most vulnerable people.



### Oman becomes fourth GCC country to introduce VAT



Oman introduced a 5% Value-Added Tax (VAT) making it the fourth Gulf Cooperation Council country to implement a so-called consumption tax after UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. Saudi Arabia tripled its VAT rate to 15% last July to help fund its coronavirus relief efforts. Oman has predicted that it will raise OMR 400 million (\$1.04 billion) from tax this year. Goods and services exempt from VAT include financial services, health care, education, local passenger transport, bare land, resale of residential real estate, and residential rents. Zero-rated goods and services include all exports, basic foodstuffs, medicine, and medical equipment, investment in gold, silver, and platinum, crude oil and derivatives, and natural gas, among certain transport goods.

## Recent Success Stories

- Secured an expatriate policy for a large communications firm.
- Implemented a PEO solution for a finance firm in France.
- Implemented a group travel medical program for a technology firm.

*Recruiting and retaining key talent around the world remains a formidable challenge for HR management. More and more, a company's success depends on the ability to offer a competitive benefits package while remaining within budget. Globex Partner Brokers can offer their clients access to a range of products, capabilities, and resources custom-tailored to helping multinationals optimize their employee benefits around the world. Contact any member of the Globex Health & Benefits Team to learn more.*

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