

## Hong Kong suspends flights from 8 countries

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Hong Kong has announced that passengers from eight countries will be banned from entering the country for 14 days as it seeks to slow the spread of the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

The government is also tightening local social-distancing measures, banning evening dining-in at restaurants and closing venues including bars, gyms and bathhouses.

Flights from the UK, US, Australia, Canada, France, India, Pakistan and the Philippines are impacted by the move.

The ban, which last until January 20th, was confirmed by Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam earlier.

Lam warned there may be “silent transmission” of the virus in the community.

The flight bans are a sharp escalation in travel curbs that have already left the city largely cut off from the world, while keeping it mostly virus-free for over seven months.

The government had already suspended two dozen individual airline routes in less than six weeks.

