30 July 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians

Keeping Our Student Care Centres COVID-19 Safe Together

In response to the growing COVID-19 clusters emerging around (i) multiple nightlife establishments, (ii) the Jurong Fishery Port (JFP), and (iii) several wet markets and hawker food centres, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) has announced further tightening of community safe management measures to arrest the ongoing community spread.

2   In line with MTF's shift to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), **we will further tighten safe management measures in SCCs from Friday, 30 July to Wednesday, 18 August 2021** to minimise the transmission of the virus. We recognise that these revised measures may inconvenient families but seek your understanding that they are necessary to protect our children and staff in the SCC community. In the upcoming weeks, it is of utmost importance that everyone be extra vigilant and take all necessary precautions against the spread of COVID-19 infections in Singapore.

COVID-Safe ABCs

3   SCCs will continue to adhere to strict safe management measures (SMMs) under the COVID-Safe ABCs on Access, Behaviours and Classrooms, and be required to tighten measures in the following areas:

   a. **Visitors into SCCs**

   From 30 July to 18 August 2021, only visitors who are needed to support the running of SCCs (e.g. contractors) and those who need to perform necessary functions (e.g. MSF officers, auditors) may enter the premises. **All parents are not allowed to enter the premises.**

   b. **Supplementary programmes**

   In light of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, tuition and enrichment classes that fall outside student care programme hours, or which involve external vendors, are to be moved online until the end of Phase 2 (Heightened Alert). This is to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within and across SCCs. Tuition and enrichment activities conducted by the SCC staff and during student care hours are permitted. If there is a need for SCCs to continue with in-person enrichment classes, external persons providing such programmes must be limited to physically serve no more than 1 SCC and adhere to SMMs.

   c. **Leave of Absence requirements**

   As SCC premises are relatively more compact and children/staff are in contact for a prolonged period, the impact of any transmission on SCCs and families is significant. Hence, it is important that we ringfence any potential transmission early to minimise

formation of clusters in SCCs. In addition to the enhanced Leave of Absence (LOA) measures that were implemented in SCCs from 9 June 2021, the following measures will take effect from 30 July 2021:

- **For children with any household member who is required to undergo a mandatory COVID-19 swab test**

  From 30 July 2021, if a household member is required to undergo mandatory COVID-19 swab test, the child will be issued Leave of Absence (LOA) and is not allowed to attend student care until the household member receives a negative swab test result.

- **For children, or their household member/s, who receive a "Health Risk Warning" or "Health Risk Alert" notification from the Ministry of Health**

  Health Risk Warning (HRW)[1]

  - Children who are issued HRW will be placed on LOA for the period of the HRW. They may return to SCC when they receive a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR)/swab test result towards the end of their HRW period.

  - Children whose household member(s) is issued a HRW will be placed on LOA until the household member receives a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result upon notification of their HRW status.

  Health Risk Alert (HRA)[2]

  - If a child, or any household member, is issued with HRA, he/she can attend SCC, if well. However, a child who receives HRA notification is strongly encouraged to be tested, and to minimise social interactions for the period specified by MOH.

- **For children with any household member who is unwell with flu-like symptoms**

  To minimise transmission risks, from 30 July 2021, children/staff with household members aged 6 years and above who are unwell (with fever and/ or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath) are to be placed on LOA until the unwell household member is tested negative for COVID-19.

- **For children who are unwell and issued Approved Absence (AA) by school**

  If a child has been unwell, and after the period of sick leave the school issues him/her a further LOA or Approved Absence (AA), he/she is not to attend student care until the conditions for re-entry to school have been met (e.g. child has completed the additional 5 days AA issued by the school after the expiry of their MC; child completed the PCR/ART and tested negative etc).

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[1] Persons identified to be a casual contact of a COVID-19 case or have visited specific higher-risk hotspots on the same day as a COVID-19 case
[2] Persons identified to have visited hotspot areas or their vicinity.

4   SCCs may continue to carry out outdoor activities in public spaces within the vicinity of the SCC. However, SCCs must now do so in small groups of no more than 2 person (including staff) instead of 5, in line with the national reduction in group sizes. We seek your understanding that with the tightened measures, some SCCs may not be able to conduct outdoor activities during this period.

5   SCCs will also suspend activities conducted outside the SCC (e.g. field trips, learning journeys, swimming) and other large group activities (e.g. assemblies) until further notice.

Support from Parents/Guardians

6   The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of every single person in the SCC community. We seek the support of parents and guardians to work together with your child's SCC to implement these enhanced safety measures:

- ☑ **Inform your child's SCC immediately** once your <u>child</u> or <u>any household member</u>:
  - Has been issued with Quarantine Order
  - Has been issued with Stay-Home Notice
  - Has been placed on Leave of Absence (LOA), Approved Absence (AA) issued by the school. If your child has been placed on LOA by the SCC due to contact with a confirmed case, to inform his/her school about the LOA that has been issued;
  - Has been placed on phone surveillance;
  - Is undergoing mandatory COVID-19 tests
  - Has been issued with Health Risk Warning or Health Risk Alert

- ☑ **Monitor your child's health regularly** and look out for symptoms such as fever (e.g. body temperature more than 37.5°C) and/or respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, runny nose, cough and breathlessness.

- ☑ **Keep your child at home if your child is unwell and see a doctor immediately. Refrain from self-medicating.** Inform your SCC if your child is unwell and only send your child back when your child's medical leave period is over, and your child has fully recovered.

7   With increased cases in the community, there may be some COVID-19 cases in SCCs despite our COVID-Safe ABC measures and the SCCs' best efforts. Our priority is to be able to detect and contain any confirmed cases quickly, and prevent new clusters from forming. We seek parents' understanding and support if we need to implement any measure that may affect your child's SCC or class/group as a result.

8   In view of the situation, **MSF will automatically waive the minimum 50% attendance requirement for disbursement of Student Care Fee Assistance (SCFA) for July and August 2021,** to better support families during this period. Please note that the rest of the qualifying requirements will still apply.

9   The recent community cases in Singapore show that we must continue to be vigilant in our fight against COVID-19. Let's stay safe together by playing our part to keep SCCs safe.

We will continue to review and adjust the measures in line with the national posture for the health and well-being of everyone in the SCC.

10   For information on safe management measures in your child's SCC, please contact your child's SCC Operator.

Yours faithfully

Denise Low (Ms)
Director
Service Delivery and Coordination Division (SDCD)
Ministry of Social and Family Development