

Our ref: MSF 132-007-356-2

09 Jun 2020

Dear Student Care Centre Operators

- (I) **Building Air-Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation (ACMV) Operations Amid COVID-19**
- (II) **[Update] Enhanced Precautionary Measures for Student Care Centres Against COVID-19 – Wearing of Masks as Default**

From 2 June 2020, all student care centres (SCCs)^[1] - in schools and in the community – have reopened and resumed student care services. MSF will continually update SCCs with relevant health, safety, travel and operational advisories in relation to COVID-19.

(I) Building Air-Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation (ACMV) Operations Amid COVID-19

2 Since late January 2020, we have stepped up safe management measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in SCCs. In line with these measures, the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), the National Environment Agency (NEA), and the Ministry of Health (MOH) have provided operational guidance for Air Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation (ACMV) systems in buildings. The Guidance Note (in Annex A) provides precautionary measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission and minimise the build-up of chemicals from cleaning and disinfection activities. It highlights measures to **increase ventilation for indoor air dilution** as well as **enhance indoor air cleaning**. In a SCC setting, this can be achieved through measures such as keeping exhaust fans running for longer, opening windows more frequently for natural ventilation (unless outdoor air quality is poor) and using portable air cleaners for localised air cleaning.

3 SCCs are strongly advised to conduct your own checks and adopt the relevant measures within the note, where practicable. SCCs may refer to the Guidance Note for details in Annex A for the precautionary measures associated with operations of ACMV systems during the period relevant to COVID-19 situation.

(II) [Update] Reopening of SCCs from 2 June 2020 – COVID-Safe Behaviour: Wearing of Masks as default in SCCs

4 Our last advisory, dated 27 May 2020 (Ref: MSF 132-007-356-2), included a Self-Assessment Checklist to guide SCCs on safe management measures which must be in place, as centres open on 2 Jun 2020. In the checklist, we mentioned that face shields were allowed as an alternative to masks (Item a, pg 6 of Self-Assessment Checklist).

5 On 1 Jun 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced that the use of masks is mandatory, and cannot be substituted with face shields. Face shields will be allowed only for specific exempt groups or settings. The groups which can wear face shields are as follows:

- (i) Children twelve years and below, who may have difficulty wearing and keeping face masks on for prolonged period of time;

^[1] This refers to SCCs whose Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) codes fall within the list of permitted services, e.g. 88912 (“child/student care services or school-going children”).

- (ii) Persons who have health conditions that may result in breathing or other medical difficulties when a mask is worn for a prolonged period of time; and
- (iii) Persons who are speaking to a group in a classroom or lecture-style setting, where they largely remain at the spot from which they are speaking, and are able to maintain a safe distance away from any other persons.

5 Please note this important change, for which the Self-Assessment Checklist has been amended (updated version in Annex B). Other Safe Management Measures are unchanged.

6 If you need any clarification, please contact your respective Student Care Officer (SCO) or email your query to MSF_Student_Care@msf.gov.sg.

Yours faithfully

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Annex A

Building Air-Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation (ACMV) Operations Amid COVID-19