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10 Jun 2020

Dear Student Care Operators

## **Enhanced Precautionary Measures for Student Care Centres Against COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)**

From 2 June 2020, Singapore began Phase One of safe reopening. All student care centres (SCCs)<sup>[1]</sup>, both in schools and in the community, have re-opened from 2 June 2020 to allow children to continue learning and to support parents as they return to work.

### ***Risk-based Testing Approach for Student Care Centres***

2 To complement the other safe management measures that SCC operators have put in place to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of staff and students, we will adopt a **risk-based testing system** to test those who may pose a higher risk of transmission, starting in June:

- a. **Staff with Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) symptoms.** SCC staff displaying respiratory symptoms (e.g. runny nose, cough, sore throat) who are diagnosed by the doctor with Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) will be swabbed on diagnosis to test for COVID-19 infection. We would like to remind all SCCs that anyone who is unwell, should see a doctor immediately and not clinic-hop.

After an assessment by the doctor, staff would be issued a 5-day MC, and sent for COVID-19 testing if diagnosed to have an ARI. To obtain the test, staff should present a letter of identification issued by the SCC ([Annex A](#)) (for community-based SCCs) or the school (for school-based SCCs).

The test will be conducted on-site if the doctor's visit takes place in a polyclinic or a Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC) clinic participating in the Swab and Send Home (SASH) initiative. If the clinic is not participating in the SASH initiative, the doctor will redirect the staff to a SASH PHPC clinic, polyclinic, or Regional Screening Centre set up by the Health Promotion Board. to be tested. The costs of the tests arising due to a diagnosis of an ARI will be covered by the Government; no payment is required from the SCC, or the staff undergoing the swab test.

Results will be available within three working days, and the doctor will contact the staff about the results via SMS notification or phone call. While waiting for the result, the staff should remain contactable, stay at home and avoid contact with other persons. SCC staff are required to inform the SCC centre managers of the results, who should in turn report the results (whether positive or negative) to MSF at [GOH Pei Ru@msf.gov.sg](mailto:GOH_Pei_Ru@msf.gov.sg) and [Muhamad Helmy Abdul Ghani@msf.gov.sg](mailto:Muhamad_Helmy_Abdul_Ghani@msf.gov.sg) (for community-based SCCs), or to your school administration (for school-based SCCs), within the same day that the individual is informed of the outcome. Staff should continue to remain at home for the duration of the 5-day MC, even after the results are known.

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<sup>[1]</sup> 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").

- b. **Staff and children returning from Quarantine Order (QO) or Stay-Home Notice (SHN).** This test is to allow MOH to pick up any asymptomatic or cases with mild symptoms early before they return to the community and SCC. Staff and children on QO/SHN should not return to the SCC until their test results show that they may return.

3 School-based SCCs should check with your school administration for more details on the arrangement.

### **COVID-19 testing for staff of non-SCFA Administrator SCCs**

4 The testing system applies to all SCCs that are providing student care services for school children. SCFA Administrator SCCs are automatically included, while non-SCFA Administrator SCCs should reach out to MSF at [MSF\\_Student\\_Care@msf.gov.sg](mailto:MSF_Student_Care@msf.gov.sg) and provide the following:

- a. Confirmation that centre is registered under Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) code 88912 (“child/student care services for school-going children”);
- b. Documentation of the centre’s programme as an SCC, which should include:
  - i. structured programme to care for children aged 7-14 years old, which includes homework supervision, care components of at least 3 hours, and provision of shower facilities;
  - ii. provision of meals or snacks.
- c. Agreement to sign a declaration that the centre is primarily providing student care services for school children aged 7-14 (to be provided subsequently).

5 During this risk-based testing, we expect some positive cases to be identified. If a staff/child is a confirmed case, the Government will work with the SCC to put in place the necessary precautionary measures to limit any transmission of the virus within the SCC.

6 For further details of the risk-based testing approach, operators may refer to a list of Frequently-Asked-Questions at [Annex B](#) below. If you require assistance, please contact your respective Student Care Officer (SCO) or email your query to [MSF\\_Student\\_Care@msf.gov.sg](mailto:MSF_Student_Care@msf.gov.sg).

Yours faithfully

Siti Mariam Selamat (Ms)  
Senior Assistant Director  
Service Delivery and Coordination Division (SDCD)  
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Annex A: [Letter of identification as SCC Staff \(for community-based SCCs\)](#)  
**Note: School-based SCCs to obtain the letter from the school.**

Annex B: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)