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20 July 2020

Dear Student Care Centre Operators

Enhanced Precautionary Measures for Student Care Centres Against COVID-19

Now that we are in Phase Two and a wider range of activities have resumed, student care centres (SCC) should continue to implement the safe management measures diligently, to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission and maintain the safety of our children and staff.

2 In past week, we have seen a number of cases in the community. These included a handful of primary school students who also attended student care. MSF had worked closely with the affected centres to manage the situation. Our recent experience showed the **importance of sustained efforts to keep our centres, and especially children, risk-free from COVID-19**. We cannot afford to relax our safety measures in student care centres, even as a wider range of activities are being resumed. MSF staff are intensifying their visits to community-based student care centres to assess and guide operators in implementing the safe management measures. School-based student care centres should comply with the safety measures outlined by MOE and their hosting schools.

Enhanced Safe Management Measures

3 Arising from the recent incidents, MSF reviewed our safe management measures for SCCs and enhanced them, so that they are clear and specific, leaving no room for doubt. Some of the key revisions are as follows:

No admission and mixing of children from different SCCs

4 An SCC should **NOT** allow any child who is not enrolled in its centre, or who is from a branch/affiliated SCC, to enter or attend student care at its centre during operating hours. This is to minimise the risks of cross contamination across centres.

Enhanced Safe Management Measures on Bus Services for Students

5 If an SCC engages a bus service to ferry children from their school to the centre, the SCC should be aware of the risks of transmission through such transport arrangements. As far as possible, children from different schools and SCCs should not mix. The ferried children must be going to only one SCC, unless they are from the same school. If not practicable, the bus operator should organise the students' seats in the bus according to the centre they are going to. If the transport service is arranged by the students' parents, please advise parents to ensure that their children abide by the safety measures put in place by those bus companies (e.g. putting on masks and alternate sitting arrangement)

6 The enhanced guidelines have been included in an updated version of the "COVID-Safe ABCs", for SCCs' reference (see Annex A).

7 **School-based SCCs** are advised to continue to refer and adhere to the **safe management measures guided by the school administration**.

Haze

8 As we are currently within the haze season (July to September), NEA has provided guidance on how to plan your outdoor activities (if any) depending on the haze situation. You may refer to the attached infographic at (Annex B) when planning outdoor activities for the children, to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

9 If you need further clarification on this advisory, you may email us at MSF_Student_Care@msf.gov.sg.

Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,

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Annex A - Safe Management of Student Care Centres

Annex B: Haze PM PSI Guide from NEA