FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON TESTING FOR COVID-19
(for staff employed at student care centres)

1. **Why do staff at student care centres (SCCs) need to get tested for COVID-19?**

   Testing complements the other safe management measures we have put in place to protect the wellbeing and safety of SCC staff and children. This is to allow us to identify COVID-19 cases earlier and to quickly contain any potential spread in the schools/education institutions and community.

2. **How should an SCC staff obtain a test?**

   If a staff feels unwell and displays respiratory symptoms, he/she should see a doctor at the nearest polyclinic or Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC) immediately. The list of PHPCs/ polyclinics is available on www.phpc.gov.sg.

   Depending on the outcome of assessment, the staff could be sent for testing for COVID-19. The staff should present the letter of identification, to confirm his/her status as an SCC staff.

   As the risk of transmission is now significantly lower compared to the situation before the Circuit Breaker period, there is no need to test everyone who has to leave their home, including all staff working at SCCs. Only SCC staff who are diagnosed with an Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) and hence pose a higher risk of transmission will be prioritised for testing as part of the overall strategy to keep SCCs safe.

3. **What should SCC staff bring for the swab test?**

   The staff will need to bring the letter of identification issued by the SCC (for community-based SCCs) or the school (for school-based SCCs), and a form of photo identification with their NRIC/FIN number (e.g. NRIC, work permit, drivers' license or passport). A mask should be worn at all times.

4. **How long is the entire swabing process?**

   The test and review will take approximately ten minutes. Waiting time may vary depending on the sites where testing is conducted. Before the swab test is done, the doctor/ nurse will explain the process and provide information on the testing.

5. Will the SCC or the staff need to pay for the swab test?

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. In this scenario, the medical consultation, medication, and investigation costs will be covered under the Flu Subsidy Scheme (for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents, as well as Work Permit Holders).

6. How will the SCC staff be informed of the result of the test?

After being tested, the staff will be notified via SMS notification or call by the doctor on the outcome of the swabs within 2-3 working days. Staff will need to notify the SCC centre manager of the swab test results, who should in turn report the results (whether positive or negative) to MSF at GOH_Pei_Ru@msf.gov.sg and 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.

7. What should the SCC staff do while waiting for the test result?

The SCC staff should remain contactable, stay at home, and avoid contact with other persons. They should also observe good personal hygiene, and monitor their health. SCC staff should have the SCC's phone number to contact for updates.

8. What happens if the SCC staff is tested positive for COVID-19?

If tested positive for COVID-19, the staff will be contacted for necessary arrangements to send the affected staff to a healthcare facility for follow-up and necessary treatment. The staff should notify the SCC centre manager of their status, who should in turn report the positive results to MSF at GOH_Pei_Ru@msf.gov.sg and 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.

9. **Will students enrolled in the SCC be tested as well, if they feel unwell and display respiratory infection symptoms?**

   Students aged 13 years old and above displaying respiratory symptoms (e.g. runny nose, cough, sore throat), who are diagnosed by the doctor with ARI, will be swabbed to test for COVID-19 infection. Students should present their student IDs to confirm their identification as a school student, and be accompanied by a parent/guardian for the test. This facilitates consent-taking and communication to both the student and parent/guardian on the precautions to take note of while awaiting the test results at home.

   Students aged 12 years old and below who have respiratory symptoms will be assessed by the doctor on whether a test is required, as younger children may require different clinical considerations from older children. They may be issued a 5-day MC in the first instance, and be required to stay home during their 5-day MC. If they are well at the end of the MC period, they can return to SCC/school. If they are still displaying respiratory symptoms at the end of their MC period, they should return to the same doctor for follow-up assessment, and the doctor may refer them to specialist children's clinics in KKH or NUH for COVID testing.

   Parents should check with their schools for the most up-to-date advice regarding testing for students.

10. **What should SCCs do if the students display respiratory symptoms during their time in the SCCs?**

    If a child displays respiratory symptoms during his/her time in the SCC, the child should be immediately isolated in the sick bay, and parents/guardians should be notified as soon as possible so that they can bring the child to the doctor before going home.

    There should be no more than one unwell child in each sick bay. If there is more than one unwell child in the sick bay, the children should be spaced 2m or more apart and be given masks to wear. If staff need to interact closely with the sick children (i.e. <2m from child), they should wear a mask and practise hand hygiene after contact with the child. The sick bay should be sanitised and wiped down frequently, especially after every use.

11. **Do personnel/workers providing contract services (e.g. cleaners, security) need to be tested?**

To facilitate the resumption of general services, our priority is to focus efforts on testing of SCC staff as they have constant close contact with the children.

As personnel providing contract services have minimal interactions with SCC children, they do not need to be tested. SCCs should ensure that personnel providing contract services do not have any sustained interactions with SCC staff and children, as part of safe distancing measures. They should also comply with other precautionary measures, such as wearing masks, temperature and health checks, travel declarations, compliance with Quarantine Orders and Stay-Home Notices, and good personal hygiene practices.