

Our ref: MSF 132-007-356-2

27 May 2020

Dear Student Care Centres

REOPENING OF STUDENT CARE CENTRES FROM 2 JUNE 2020

On 19 May 2020, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce outlined the plans for easing certain Circuit Breaker measures from 2 June 2020 to allow Singaporeans to return to work, attend schools, and visit their parents and grandparents. Please refer to the press release for more details: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/end-of-circuit-breaker-phased-approach-to-resuming-activities-safely>.

2. **All student care centres (SCCs), both school- and community-based centres, will reopen from 2 June 2020**, to allow children to continue learning and to support parents as they return to work.

3. SCCs whose Singapore Standard Industrial Classification (SSIC) code fall within the list of permitted services, e.g. 88912 (“child/student care services for school-going children”) need not seek exemption from MTI before resuming operations. However, operators must submit their manpower details via the GoBusiness portal within 2 weeks of the date of resumption of operations. You may refer to the list of permitted services at <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/permittedlist/>

Reopening of SCCs with COVID-Safe ABCs in place

4. Since late January 2020, we have stepped up precautionary measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in SCCs. As we move out of the Circuit Breaker, all SCCs are required to adopt safe management measures under “**COVID-Safe ABCs**” so that we can prevent large community clusters from forming even as we start to reopen:

- a. **COVID-Safe Access** is about restricting entry of individuals who may pose risk of transmission to safeguard the wellbeing of children and staff in SCCs (e.g. restriction of visitors, stepped-up health checks).
- b. **COVID-Safe Behaviours** is about cultivating the right norms and habits among staff, children and their parents to reduce the risk of transmission (e.g. not attending SCCs if unwell, mask wearing, carrying out activities in small groups, good personal hygiene).
- c. **COVID-Safe Classrooms** is about adopting classroom management strategies to minimise interaction between different classes (e.g. no cross deployment of staff, keeping staff and children within their own bays, floors or classes as far as possible) to reduce the risk of widespread transmission within each SCC,

5. MSF has prepared a ***Self-Assessment Checklist on Safe Management of Student Care Centres*** (please refer to **Annex A**). The checklist guides student care operators to prepare for, and implement safe management measures, when centres open from 2 June 2020. Each centre should complete the self-assessment checklist and take the necessary actions to comply with these measures. Several new measures have been introduced – such

as grouping of children according to their classes or schools where possible - to minimize mingling amongst children from different schools. MSF Student Care Officers may visit SCCs to provide guidance, check on compliance with the measures and support the student care community.

6. To ensure that the safe management measures are implemented well and consistently, SCCs are to **appoint a staff as a Safe Management Officer(s) (SMO)** who would be responsible for:

- a. Conducting the self-assessment check;
- b. Implementing, coordinating and monitoring safe management measures; and
- c. Communicating and explaining the safe management measures, before starting work.

While the SMO helps to focus efforts, everyone in the SCC is responsible and needs to play their part to ensure a safe environment in the SCC.

7. For the month of June, students not in graduating levels will alternate between home-based learning (HBL) and school on a weekly basis. Some operators have asked whether SCCs are required or allowed to provide full-day care for children during the HBL days. As we exit from the Circuit Breaker, we need to take a more cautious approach so that SCCs can re-open safely. Hence, **community-based SCCs should not provide full-day care for children during the HBL days**. Parents whose children are on HBL but are unable to secure the necessary care arrangements at home should approach the child's school for assistance.

Use of Safe Entry in SCCs

8. Singapore needs to continue to strengthen our contact tracing regime through the use of technology. **All SCCs must use SafeEntry system to log the check-in and check-out of children, staff and visitors**. This is a free-for-use service and SCCs can visit <https://www.safeentry.gov.sg> to sign up for **SafeEntry NRIC** or **SafeEntry QR**. Upon registration, SCCs will receive an onboarding guide with links to all the key resources, digital posters, step-by-step user guides and demo videos.

9. MSF is tracking centres' registration for SafeEntry to ensure full compliance. For instructions on SafeEntry, you can refer to <https://www.safeentry.gov.sg> or the Student Care Portal at www.msf.gov.sg/studentcare.

Preparing for Reopening

10. SCCs are to carry out thorough cleaning and disinfection of your premises, materials and resources, before opening. Operators that wish to return to their premises earlier to clean and prepare the centre for implementing the safe management measures will need to **apply and be given approval for a time limited exemption (TLE)**. Please refer to <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/faq/timelimited> for more details on the application process.

Monitoring

11. As we need to monitor and assess the situation in SCCs, we seek SCC operators and supervisors' cooperation to continue to provide MSF with an update of staff and children on

LOA or SHN by 2pm daily (one submission per person on LOA/SHN) via <https://go.gov.sg/msf-report-loa> or via the QR code below.



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

13. Let us continue to work together as a community because as SG United, we can beat the virus together, and ensure a safe environment for children and staff.

Yours faithfully

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