

Our Ref: MSF 132-007-356A-2

22 January 2020

Subject: Precautionary Measures in Student Care Centres in Response to Cases of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia in Wuhan

To: All Student Care Centres' operators

In light of the recent cases of novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan, Student Care Centres (SCCs) may be concerned on measures to take to ensure the health and wellbeing of student and staff. The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and relevant agencies are monitoring the situation closely and will provide updates, where necessary.

2 With the anticipated increase in travel volume in the lead up to the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays, the Ministry of Health has expanded temperature screening at Changi Airport and will issue Health Advisory Notices for all inbound travellers on flights arriving from China, with effect from 22 January 2020. Suspect cases will be referred to hospitals for further assessment.

Measures to be Taken in Student Care Centres

3 SCCs are reminded to be vigilant in conducting health checks and monitor the health of student and staff. Student and staff returning from China, who are well and do not display any symptoms of illness, should be allowed to return to school. Those who have travelled to Wuhan should monitor their health closely and seek medical attention if they feel unwell, and inform their doctor of their travel history. In addition, please remind all staff and student to:

a. Observe high levels of personal hygiene

- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and to throw away the tissue immediately into a bin.
- Wash hands frequently with soap, especially before eating or handling food, after toilet visits, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing.
- Not to share food/drinks, eating utensils, toothbrushes or towels with others.

b. Ensure good environmental hygiene

- Keep the centre environment clean.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces, toys and commonly shared items at least daily and when contaminated by nasal or oral secretions.
- Ensure supplies such as hand soap, tissues, and paper towels are available for student and staff's use.

c. Monitor health and seek medical attention promptly

- Detect and isolate persons who are ill early and advise them to seek medical treatment.
- Advise student and staff who are unwell to stay at home to rest and return to school only when they have fully recovered.
- Remind parents not to send their child to SCC if the child is sick.

4 Everyone has a part to play to keep the SCC clean and safe for student and staff. We encourage SCC operators to share the information with your staff.

5 If you need further assistance or clarification, please email to MSF_Student_Care@msf.gov.sg. Or contact the respective Student Care Officer (SCO) assigned to your postal code area.

Yours sincerely

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