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4 April 2020

To: All SCFA Administrators and Student Care Centre operators

Enhanced Precautionary Measures for Student Care Centres Against COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) –Student Care Centres to Suspend General Services

In view of the increasing number of locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in Singapore in the past week, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will be implementing an elevated set of safe distancing measures, as a circuit breaker to limit the local transmission of COVID-19. The aim is to reduce movements and interactions in public and private places, and encourage everyone to stay at home unless necessary for essential purposes.

Suspension of student care services

2 The Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) will require all preschools, MOE Kindergartens and student care centres to **suspend their services from 8 April 2020 until 4 May 2020**. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep their children home during this period.

3 School-based student care centres are to **check with your school's administration** on further instructions for this period.

4 For cases where parents are working in essential services such as healthcare, and are unable to make alternative care arrangements for their child, please advise them to **contact their schools to explore care options**.

Support with subsidies

5 MSF will continue to **disburse Student Care Fee Assistance (SCFA) subsidies in full to beneficiaries in SCFA Administrator student care centres, and automatically waive the minimum 50% attendance requirement for the month of April**.

6 We know that this is a challenging time for many. Let us continue to work together as a community because as SG United, we can beat the virus together.

7 We have included a letter for parents, informing them of the suspension of student care service. Please forward the letter to all parents of children enrolled in your centre.

8 If you require assistance, please contact your respective Student Care Officer (SCO) or email your query to 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

4 April 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

Keeping Our Children Safe Against COVID-19: Student care centres to suspend general services

In view of the increasing number of locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in Singapore in the past week, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will be implementing more safe distancing measures as a circuit breaker to limit the local transmission of COVID-19. The aim is to minimise movements and interactions in public and private places, and encourage everyone to stay at home unless necessary for essential purposes.

Suspension of student care services

2 The Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) will require all preschools, MOE Kindergartens and student care centres to **suspend their services from 8 April 2020 until 4 May 2020**. Parents should keep their children home during this period.

3 For parents/guardians who are working in essential services and unable to find alternative care during this period, please seek assistance from your child's Primary School on **6 April 2020 (Monday)**.

Support with subsidies

4 MSF will continue to **disburse Student Care Fee Assistance (SCFA) subsidies in full to SCFA beneficiaries in SCFA Administrator student care centres, and automatically waive the minimum 50% attendance requirement for the month of April**.

5 MOE and MSF will continue to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation and to review the measures. Please refer to the joint press release for details:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/schools-and-institutes-of-higher-learning-to-shift-to-full-home-based-learning-preschools-and-student-care-centres-to-suspend-general-services>

6 We understand that many families will be affected by this measure. Since January 2020, we have steadily implemented precautionary measures in student care centres to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children and staff. Despite best efforts, the rising number of local COVID-19 cases in Singapore necessitates a further tightening of our measures and for us to do more to protect our children and staff.

7 The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of every single person in the student care community. **In the best interest of your child and family, we strongly advise you to keep your child at home during this period and avoid going out unnecessarily,** except to purchase daily necessities, essential services, or for urgent medical needs. There should be no social gatherings; and social contact should be confined to immediate family members during this period.

8 Please monitor your child for fever (e.g. body temperature more than 37.5°C) and/or respiratory symptoms such as sore throat, runny nose, cough and breathlessness. If your child is unwell, see a doctor immediately and inform the student care centre.

9 We know that this is a challenging time for many, and an unprecedented one for us all. Now more than ever, we need to come together as a community because as SG United, we can beat the virus together.

Yours faithfully

Siti Mariam Selamat (Ms)
Senior Assistant Director
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