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Ref: OSHE 005/20

29 January 2020

All Staff and Students

### **ADVISORY ON WUHAN CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) – CIRCULAR 3**

Dear Colleagues and Students

Please take note of the following information pertaining to staff and students of NUS.

#### **Compulsory Travel Declaration**

**A. Staff<sup>1</sup> and students who are intending to travel overseas for personal and official trips between January to March 2020:**

- Please defer your official travel to mainland China with immediate effect.
- You are also strongly encouraged to defer your personal trips to mainland China.
- It is **mandatory** to submit your **personal and official travel plans** between January and March 2020 [here](#).
- **A nil submission is required for all staff and students** who do not have any travel plans between January and March 2020.
- If you have previously submitted your personal and official travel plans, you **need not** resubmit your plans.

#### **Quarantine Orders from the Ministry of Health**

**B. All individuals returning from Hubei province, China:**

- The Ministry of Health (MOH) has implemented additional precautionary measures to minimise the risk of community spread of the Wuhan coronavirus in Singapore. As announced on 28 January 2020 (Appendix 1), **MOH is contacting all recent travellers from Hubei province who are in Singapore**. The Ministry will assess who among this group are at higher risk and will place them under quarantine.
- In addition, from 29 January 2020, 12.00pm, all new visitors with recent Hubei province travel history within the last 14 days, or those with PRC passports issued in Hubei province, will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes collaborators, casual staff and contractors working on campus. Collaborators, casual staff and contractors are, however, not required to report their travel plans to NUS.

- The Government Quarantine Facility (GQF) at Prince George's Park Residences will be used for NUS international staff and students who have been issued quarantine orders by the authorities.
- Persons Under Quarantine (PUQs) at the GQF are **healthy individuals who show NO symptoms** and fall under the quarantine criteria established by the authorities (Appendix 1). **Quarantine Orders (QOs) have legal force, with severe penalties for non-compliance.** Quarantined individuals are guarded by security staff round-the-clock and are not allowed to leave their rooms during the full quarantine period.
- The only people who are allowed in contact with PUQs are trained staff who are looking after the quarantined individuals, such as cleaners, delivery persons for food and essential items. If any quarantined individuals later show any symptoms of infection, **they will be transferred immediately by special ambulance to designated hospitals for further evaluation.**
- We seek the cooperation of our quarantined staff and students to comply with the QOs, to stay within their designated GQF rooms during the required quarantine period when the GQF is in operation.

### **Leave Of Absence**

- **Teaching and research staff** returning from mainland China are required to be on a 14-day Leave of Absence (LOA). You will need to inform your supervisor via email. Day 0 is the day of return to Singapore and you may return to work on Day 15 if you did not develop any symptoms during the 14 days. Please refer to this [LOA link](#) for further information. **Administrative staff** who have to work from home will have their records manually tracked.
- **Students** returning from mainland China are reminded to declare their travel history in the online [travel declaration](#). You will be on a mandatory 14-day LOA. Day 0 is the day of return to Singapore and you may attend classes on Day 15 if you did not develop any symptoms during the 14 days. Your Faculty/School will be informed of your absence, and your professors will support you and minimise disruption to your studies.

### **Updating of Personal Contact Details**

- Please update your latest contact details (**addresses, mobile and home numbers, as well as emergency contact**) so that you will be kept informed of the latest advisories relating to this evolving situation.
  - (a) For staff, please go to NUS Staff Portal (eServices -> [Update address & contact](#))
  - (b) For students, please go to [myEduRec](#) (Personal Info -> Contact Details)

### **Access to Departments and Offices on Campus**

- In view of the current Wuhan virus situation, all NUS units are to ensure that door access to departments and offices are enabled in the 'locked' mode on a 24-hour basis, such that access is only granted using the NUS staff/student card. This will help facilitate contact tracing, if the need arises.

NUS circulars and FAQs on the University's precautionary measures in relation to the Wuhan virus situation can be found at [emergency.nus.edu.sg](https://emergency.nus.edu.sg).

Please be assured that we will put in place all necessary safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus within the NUS community.

If you have any further questions, please contact the management office of your department.

Thank you.

Dr Peck Thian Guan  
Director  
Office of Safety, Health and Environment

## Appendix 1

### **ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SINGAPORE**

#### **Background**

1. The three latest confirmed cases over the past 24 hours indicate that the trend of infection among the population of Chinese nationals from Hubei province in Singapore is accelerating. All of the confirmed cases in Singapore thus far are Chinese nationals from Hubei.
2. This is similar to what is being observed elsewhere, including in other Chinese cities outside Hubei. According to the PRC authorities, 95 per cent of confirmed cases in Chinese cities were recently in Hubei, confirming that the infection has spread most widely in that province.
3. We expect to see more confirmed cases arising from this group in Singapore. While there is currently no evidence of community spread here, this group poses a heightened risk to Singapore. Therefore the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on the Wuhan coronavirus has decided to take further steps to limit the risk that travellers to Hubei pose to Singapore.

#### **Recent travellers from Hubei already in Singapore**

4. As the Taskforce announced yesterday, the Ministry of Health (MOH) is contacting all recent travellers from Hubei province who are in Singapore. MOH estimates that about 2,000 such persons have arrived here in the last two weeks, of whom roughly 1,000 are on short-term visas.
5. MOH will assess who among this group are at higher risk and will place them under quarantine.
  - a. Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and foreigners on long-term visas will be quarantined at home or other suitable facilities.
  - b. Those on short-term visas will be housed at Government Quarantine Facilities. Returning residents and long-term pass holders – either with travel history in Hubei OR with PRC passports issued in Hubei
6. The following returning groups will be quarantined at home or other suitable facilities:
  - a) Residents (Singaporean Citizens/ PRs) with recent Hubei travel history within the last 14 days;
  - b) Long-term pass holders (including Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependent Pass and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent Hubei travel history within the last 14 days; and
  - c) PRs and long-term pass holders with PRC passports issued in Hubei.
7. Quarantine orders have legal force, with severe penalties for non-compliance.

#### **New visitors with travel history in Hubei OR with PRC passports issued in Hubei**

8. From 29 January 2020, 12pm, all new visitors with recent Hubei travel history within the last 14 days, or those with PRC passports issued in Hubei, will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.
9. The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will suspend the issuance of all forms of new visas to those with PRC passports issued in Hubei with immediate effect.

10. Previously issued short-term and multiple-visit visas, as well as visa-free transit facilities, for those with PRC passports issued in Hubei, will also be suspended with immediate effect. During this period of suspension, they will not be allowed entry into Singapore.

### **Remaining cautious and calm**

11. There is so far no evidence of community spread in Singapore. However there is international evidence of growing infection among Hubei residents and those who have visited the province. We are therefore taking further precautions to reduce the risk of community spread in Singapore, and to protect Singaporeans. The Taskforce will continue to monitor the situation and take further steps as needed, depending on how the situation develops.

12. Meanwhile, Singaporeans can play their part by being socially responsible and practising good personal hygiene habits. Singaporeans are reminded to wash their hands regularly. Those who are unwell should wear a mask and see a doctor immediately. However, there is no general necessity to wear a mask if you are well.

13. We urge Singaporeans to remain calm, and to refer to official sources such as the MOH website or subscribe to the gov.sg WhatsApp, to get the latest updates on the situation.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
28 JANUARY 2020**