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CIRCULAR 12

15 March 2020

All Staff and Students

COVID-19: SUSPENSION OF ALL OVERSEAS PLACEMENTS AND ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR TRAVELLERS

Dear Colleagues and Students

NUS STAFF AND STUDENT DISCHARGED FROM NCID **LATEST**

1. I am pleased to share with you the news that the faculty member from the School of Design & Environment and the student from the Faculty of Engineering have both been discharged from the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID). Both were part of a church cluster and had tested positive for COVID-19 in February 2020.
2. The professor and student are well, and are happy to be back with their families. Our colleagues will continue to be in regular contact with them to ensure that they have the support they need.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

3. The World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a [global pandemic](#) on 11 March 2020.
4. On 12 March 2020, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong [addressed](#) the nation on the country's approach to the local COVID-19 situation, and said that the outbreak may last for a year or longer.
5. To prevent the further importation and spread of COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Health announced new travel restrictions on [13 March 2020](#), as well as [15 March 2020](#).
6. The [Ministry of Education together with the Institutes of Higher Learning](#) have suspended all official overseas placements, including all internships and exchange programmes, until end-July 2020. Official overseas trips for staff will also be suspended until end-July 2020.
7. The Global Relations Office as well as Faculties and Schools will be in contact with the affected students to provide assistance.
8. The Ministry of Manpower has also issued [guidelines on social distancing measures at the workplace](#).

UPDATED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

All Inbound Travel

9. All staff and students returning from overseas travel are to strictly observe the precautionary measures below:

	<u>Quarantine Order</u> (Authorities)	<u>Stay-Home Notice</u> (Authorities & NUS)	<u>14-day Leave of Absence</u> (NUS)	<u>7-day Social Distancing</u> (NUS)
Brunei [^]		√		
Canada			√	
Cambodia [^]		√		
Hubei province	√			
Mainland China (outside of Hubei)		√		
France [#]		√		
Germany [#]		√		
Indonesia [^]		√		
Iran		√		
Italy [#]		√		
Japan [^]		√		
Republic of Korea		√		
Laos [^]		√		
Malaysia [*]		√ [*]		
Mexico			√	
Myanmar [^]		√		
Philippines [^]		√		
Spain [#]		√		
Switzerland [^]		√		
Thailand [^]		√		
Turkey			√	
United Kingdom [^]		√		
United States of America			√	
Vietnam [^]		√		
All other Schengen countries not listed above			√	
All other countries not listed above (and outside of Schengen countries)				√

^{*} Managed by the Singapore-Malaysia Joint Working Group for COVID-19. Entry into Singapore via air travel is subject to SHN. Land and sea crossings are exempted for now.

[#] With effect from 15 March 2020, 2359 hours

[^] With effect from 16 March 2020, 2359 hours

All Outbound Travel

10. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve around the world, you are strongly advised to **defer all official travel and non-essential travel during this period.**
11. Staff and students who must travel for official reasons must seek the approval of their supervisors or the management office of their departments.
12. If you must travel, please stay alert to the latest COVID-19 news in the countries you are visiting. Singaporeans should also [e-register](#) their overseas travel with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
13. Please remember to declare your upcoming travel plans (for up to 31 July 2020) in the [Overseas Travel Declaration system](#) by 31 March 2020. You must also update your travel declaration if there are any subsequent changes to your travel plans.
14. Students who do not declare their travel plans will not be able to access LumiNUS.

Being Socially Responsible

15. While these additional precautionary measures may temporarily disrupt your work or study activities and travel plans, it is vital that we strictly abide by these measures.
16. Non-compliance with any of the control measures implemented by the Singapore authorities is subject to prosecution under the Infectious Diseases Act; and work passes, student passes and re-entry permits may be revoked or have their validity shortened.
17. Please also note that non-compliance with measures introduced by NUS to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 is considered an offence, and disciplinary action will be taken against staff and students. All non-compliance will be dealt with in accordance to the NUS Code of Conduct and the NUS student disciplinary procedures.
18. We must continue to be socially responsible to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We need to be vigilant, practise good personal hygiene, and take all necessary precautions for the health and wellbeing of our colleagues, students, friends and families.
19. If you have further questions, please email covid-19@nus.edu.sg or contact the management office of your department. Thank you.

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

Stay updated:

- NUS circulars, FAQs, emergency contact numbers, as well as useful links on the COVID-19 situation are available at emergency.nus.edu.sg.
- The latest NUS-related news, research and commentaries on COVID-19 are available [here](#).
- Updates from the Dean of Students can be seen [here](#).
- Please refer to the [Ministry of Health](#) for the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) for travel advisories.