

Ref: OSHE 016/20

CIRCULAR 13

18 March 2020

All Staff and Students

COVID-19: EXTENDED SUSPENSION OF NUS CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATED NUS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR TRAVELLERS

Dear Colleagues and Students

LATEST

1. I would like to inform you that an invited speaker who attended an event on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at The Hangar, which is located within the NUS i³ building, has tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, 17 March 2020. The speaker had his temperature taken, in line with NUS' requirements, before the start of the event, and had no fever. He was well and had no symptoms.
2. Upon being alerted that the invited speaker was confirmed to be infected, thorough cleaning and disinfecting has been carried out in the seminar room that the invited speaker had used, common spaces and high traffic areas in The Hangar, the lift and lift lobby at the ground floor of i³ building.
3. We are reaching out to individuals who have had close contact with the speaker at the event, and they have been asked to practise social isolation and may be issued with Leave of Absence.
4. The health and wellbeing of our staff and students remain our top priorities. To ensure safe and thorough cleaning, all staff and students in the building have been asked to work from home for the rest of this week and to return on Monday, 23 March 2020.

UPDATED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Extended Suspension of Co-curricular Activities

5. NUS' co-curricular activities (CCAs) and related events involving close contact will be further suspended until and including Sunday, 10 May 2020, after which the suspension policy will be reviewed.
6. During this suspension period:
 - a. Regardless of participation numbers, all CCAs and related events involving close physical contact (such as team sports training, dance practice, etc.) will be suspended.

- b. The definition of “close contact” is anything that involves physical touch, or the physical presence of people less than 2 metres apart.
- c. CCAs which can be modified to comply with these guidelines can continue.
- d. Students may continue to carry out their own fitness training, but should avoid gathering as a group. They should also not train at other campuses or with outside teams.

Precautions for Staff, Students and Visitors

- 7. In [Circular 12](#) sent on Sunday, 15 March 2020, you were informed that all staff and students returning from overseas travel to the countries in Table A below will be subject to enhanced precautionary measures imposed by the authorities, as well as NUS. Please note that these measures will also apply to visitors from these countries to NUS. Visitors are to serve their Quarantine Order, Stay-Home Notice, Leave of Absence or social distancing off campus, at their own expense.

TABLE A: PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VISITORS

	Quarantine Order (QO) (Authorities)	Stay-Home Notice (SHN) (Authorities & NUS)	14-day Leave of Absence (LOA) (NUS) ⁴	7-day Social Distancing (NUS) ⁴
Brunei ³		√		
Canada			√	
Cambodia ³		√		
Hubei province	√			
Mainland China (outside of Hubei)		√		
France ²		√		
Germany ²		√		
Indonesia ³		√		
Iran		√		
Italy ²		√		
Japan ³		√		
Republic of Korea		√		
Laos ³		√		
Malaysia ^{1,3}		√		
Mexico			√	
Myanmar ³		√		
Philippines ³		√		
Spain ²		√		
Switzerland ³		√		
Thailand ³		√		
Turkey			√	
United Kingdom ³		√		

	Quarantine Order (QO) (Authorities)	Stay-Home Notice (SHN) (Authorities & NUS)	14-day Leave of Absence (LOA) (NUS) ⁴	7-day Social Distancing (NUS) ⁴
United States of America			√	
Vietnam ³		√		
All other Schengen countries not listed above			√	
All other countries not listed above (and outside of Schengen countries)				√

¹ 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.

² All staff and students returning, as well as visitors arriving, from these countries on [Saturday, 14 March and Sunday, 15 March 2020](#), are required by NUS to serve a mandatory 14-day LOA. Those returning after Sunday, 15 March 2020 @ 11.59pm will be served SHN.

³ All staff and students returning, as well as visitors arriving, from these countries on [Sunday, 15 March and Monday, 16 March 2020](#), are required by NUS to serve a mandatory 14-day LOA. Those returning after Monday, 16 March 2020 @ 11.59pm will be served SHN.

⁴ All staff and students returning, as well as visitors arriving, from these countries after Monday, 16 March 2020 @ 11.59pm.

Leave Policy for Staff on LOA or SHN

- The Ministry of Manpower has issued [guidelines for employers on employees' non-essential travel](#) in response to the Ministry of Health's updated travel advisory. Staff who departed Singapore [after Sunday, 15 March 2020](#) (date of [Circular 12](#)) for countries in Table A above are required to use their personal annual leave to serve the 14-day SHN or 14-day LOA, subject to extenuating circumstances.

Travel Restrictions for Malaysian Staff and Students

- As you know, Malaysia has announced a Movement Control Order as part of its efforts to combat the community spread of COVID-19. Malaysians working and studying in Singapore will not be able to commute from 18 March to 31 March 2020.
- Malaysian staff without a Singapore residential address may choose to work from home for the period that the Movement Control Order is in place. Staff residing in Singapore (with a Singapore residential address) have been asked to stay in Singapore for the period of the Movement Control Order.
- Students residing in Malaysia are to do e-learning during the two-week travel restriction and consult with their course instructors to ensure that there is no disruption to their studies.
- We are deeply appreciative of our facilities, cleaning, as well as security vendors, who have been proactive in swiftly providing housing for their Malaysian staff as well as finding local replacement staff to ensure that there is no disruption in University operations, facilities,

maintenance and cleaning. We are also grateful to staff who may be taking on extra overtime to cover any gaps that may arise from this temporary disruption.

13. As the COVID-19 situation is evolving rapidly, we must continue to be socially responsible, practise good personal hygiene, and take all necessary precautions for the health and wellbeing of our colleagues, students, friends and families.
14. Staff and students are reminded to take their temperature twice daily. Anyone with temperature of 38°C or higher, or having respiratory symptoms, e.g. cough, sore throat or runny nose must not come to campus. They should wear a mask and immediately seek medical attention.
15. 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.