

Ref: OSHE 025/20

CIRCULAR 22

15 June 2020

All Staff and Students

COVID-19: SWAB TESTING FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS WITH ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION

A. Swab testing for staff and students with Acute Respiratory Infection

1. On 8 June 2020, the Ministry of Health [announced](#) that testing will be a key enabler of the Government's overall efforts to safely reopen after the circuit breaker. Active surveillance testing are being conducted on targeted groups, to help detect cases early and reduce the risk of large COVID-19 clusters from developing. Regional screening centres have been set up across Singapore to support the national testing efforts.
2. To contain any potential spread of COVID-19 in educational institutions and the community, students and staff from Institutes of Higher Learning who are unwell with respiratory symptoms such as cough, sore throat and runny nose, will be checked for Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) when they consult their doctor.
3. If you are diagnosed with ARI, you will be prioritised for COVID-19 testing, which involves undergoing a swab test at a polyclinic or Public Health Preparedness Clinic participating in the Swab-and-Send-Home initiative or Regional Screening Centre set up by the Health Promotion Board. If you did not visit any of the facilities listed above, but require testing, your consulting doctor will redirect you as necessary.
4. It is extremely important that if you are unwell with respiratory symptoms, you should:
 - a. Consult a doctor immediately
 - b. **Inform the doctor that you are from NUS, and show your Student or Staff ID card as a proof of identity**
 - c. Declare your health status in the [Health and Temperature Declaration System](#)
5. If you have been sent for swab testing, the consulting doctor will issue medical leave to you. **Do not come to class/office/campus while waiting for your COVID-19 swab test results.** You are to remain at home, self-isolate as much as possible, observe good personal hygiene, and monitor your health. Your test results, which will be available within three working days, will be conveyed to you by the doctor.
6. Please notify OSHE at swabresults@nus.edu.sg if the swab test result is positive.

B. Return to campus for Academic Staff

7. As stated in SDPPVO Circular 32/20 dated 26 May 2020, Academic Staff are allowed to return to campus for two reasons:
 - a. Teaching days, determined by your schedule for in-person teaching; and
 - b. Research days, determined by the last digit of your staff ID number.

Research-active Faculties are allowed on campus to conduct research related activities, for either two days (for lab-based researchers) or one day (for non-lab-based researchers). *Please refer to SDPPVO Circular 32/20 sent out by the Office of Senior Deputy President and Provost for more details.*

8. Executive and Administrative Staff, as well as lab-based Research Staff and PhD and Masters (Research) students, who have obtained prior approval, are allowed to be on campus in accordance with their assigned team or shift arrangements.
9. This latest safety measure on swab testing complements the other precautionary measures that have been put in place to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of staff and students. Please continue to remain vigilant, practise good personal hygiene, as well as appropriate social habits, and wear a mask at all times when you leave your home or hostel.
10. 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.