

Ref: OSHE 006/21

CIRCULAR 4

22 March 2021

Dear Staff and Students

COVID-19: IMPORTANT UPDATE ON WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME IN HOSTELS

1. Since 7 December 2020, the University has implemented the Wastewater Surveillance Programme for all NUS hostels for a safe, effective and non-intrusive way to detect COVID-19 positive cases.
2. We have been informed that results from the **wastewater sample** collected on 20 March 2021 from the inspection chamber linked to the bathrooms at UTown Residence North Tower detected low levels of COVID-19 viral ribonucleic acid (RNA).

Compulsory swab test

3. As a precautionary measure, the Ministry of Health requires all residents in the affected apartments to undergo a swab test. The swab test has to be performed swiftly to identify whether there are other residents who may be and/or had been infected with COVID-19. This is so that we can provide immediate medical care and support, while taking the necessary steps to cut the transmission of COVID-19.
4. The relevant authorities will be setting up swabbing stations at UTown Residence on Tuesday, 23 March 2021. Affected residents are required to self-isolate and minimise physical contact with others until the swab test results are confirmed to be negative.

Precautionary measures

5. The safety and health of our staff and students are of the highest priority of the University. From now until the swab test result is known (which will take about two to three days), in the interest of your safety and health, we seek your cooperation to observe the following:
 - a. Do not visit or enter the premises of the affected block in the hostel.
 - b. Avoid the swabbing stations and its vicinity.
 - c. Monitor your health and declare your temperature via uNivUS. If you are unwell, please see a doctor immediately.
 - d. Comply with the University's existing safe management measures i.e. observe social distancing, wear a mask, activate the Trace Together and NUSafe app etc.

6. Meanwhile, please remain calm, comply with the precautionary measures outlined above, and do not spread unverified information. We will update again on the outcome of the swab test exercise in due course.
7. If you have further questions, please check with the management office of your faculty, school or department, or email COVID-19@nus.edu.sg.

Dr Peck Thian Guan
Senior 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](#).
- Please refer to the [Ministry of Health](#) for the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.