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CIRCULAR 22

6 July 2021

Staff and Students

COVID-19: AN UPDATE ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND COVID-19 VACCINATION

Dear Colleagues and Students

1. Leave of Absence

- a. In view of the easily transmissible COVID-19 variants which have a greater impact on younger children, as well as the ongoing national vaccination exercise, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has introduced additional Leave of Absence (LOA) measures for staff and students at educational institutions. These are in addition to the existing LOA measures listed in Annex A.

With effect from 7 July 2021, staff and students will be served LOA in the following scenarios:

S/No	Scenario	Description
1.	Staff/students or household members of staff/students who have to undergo a mandatory COVID-19 testing due to a COVID-19 cluster	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Once staff/students know that they or their household member is required to undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing due to exposure to a COVID-19 cluster, they should not come to campus with immediate effect. b. Staff/students are to declare to their Faculty Dean's Office/Department Office/Master and Management Office of the hostel if they or their household member is required to undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing due to exposure to a COVID-19 cluster. They will be given 5 days LOA from the day of reporting. This takes into account the time needed to carry out the mandatory test. c. LOA will be lifted upon a negative COVID-19 test result. d. This will <u>not</u> apply to staff/students who are working in sectors, such as healthcare and aviation, where mandatory Routine Rostered Testing is required. e. Staff who can work from home can continue with their regular duties while on LOA. Students should continue to study from their residences while on LOA.
2.	Staff/students staying in the same household as individuals (6 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This is an expansion of the current LOA policy for staff/students staying in the same household as adult individuals (18 years old and above) with flu-like symptoms, in view that the Delta variant has greater

S/No	Scenario	Description
	old and above) with flu-like symptoms	<p>impact on younger children. Moving forward, staff/students would have to declare if their household members (<u>6 years old and above</u>) have flu-like symptoms.</p> <p>b. Staff/students would need to furnish proof of the MC of the household member (if MC is available).</p> <p>c. LOA will be lifted upon report of a negative PCR/ART test, or at the end of the MC, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>d. If the household member is not on MC, the LOA will be capped at 5 days.</p> <p>e. Staff who can work from home can continue with their regular duties while on LOA. Students should continue to study from their residences while on LOA.</p>
3.	Staff/students with Acute Respiratory Infection symptoms and are on medical leave, but do not have a COVID-19 test result	<p>a. Staff/students to be placed on LOA for 5 days after expiry of medical leave, if they do not have a COVID-19 test result.</p> <p>b. Staff who can work from home can continue with their regular duties while on LOA. Students should continue to study from their residences while on LOA.</p>

- b. Since 7 May 2021, the Stay-Home Notice (SHN) was increased to 21 days for higher risk countries/regions, and students and staff entering Singapore from these higher risk countries/regions were not required to serve the 7-day LOA.

As the SHN duration for all travellers entering Singapore from higher risk countries/regions has been reduced from 21 days to 14 days with effect from 23 June 2021, **staff and students will now be required to serve the additional 7-day LOA after completion of the 14-day SHN.**

As of 30 June 2021, “higher risk countries/regions” refer to all countries/regions, except Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Hong Kong, Macao, Mainland China and New Zealand.

2. Update on COVID-19 Vaccination

- a. You are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is one way to prevent the disease, minimise the risk of transmission, and prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed.

Staff and students who have not registered their interest for vaccination may do so via www.vaccine.gov.sg, and they will be progressively invited to book their vaccination appointments. For queries on vaccination, please contact MOH COVID-19 hotline at 1800-333-9999.

- b. Staff and students should avoid strenuous physical activity, such as intense exercise, for one week after they have received the first and second doses of vaccination. Some examples of strenuous physical activity to avoid are running, swimming, cycling, lifting heavy weights, competitive sports, and playing ball or racket games. During this time, if you develop any chest pain, shortness of breath or abnormal heart beats, you should seek medical attention immediately.

Thank you for your efforts and support in keeping the campus community safe.

Mr Kevin Chua
Chief People Officer

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.

ANNEX A

S/No	Scenario	Description
1.	Confirmed case	Students and staff with close and recent contact with a confirmed case, but who were not placed on Quarantine Order (QO) by MOH.
2.	Person Under Quarantine (PUQ)	<p>Students and staff residing in the same household as a PUQ, for the duration of the PUQ's Home Quarantine Order (HQO).</p> <p>Students and staff residing in the same household as a PUQ who is awaiting transportation to Government Quarantine Facility (GQF). LOA to be rescinded once PUQ tests negative for COVID-19 at GQF.</p>
3.	Person-under-Stay-Home-Notice (PSHN)	Students and staff residing in the same household as a PSHN serving SHN at home, for the duration of the PSHN's SHN.
4.	Travel to Singapore from overseas and serving 14-day SHN	<p>Students and staff travelling to Singapore from overseas and serving 14-day SHN[^] will be required to serve an additional 7-day LOA after completion of the 14-day SHN.</p> <p>Students will be required to stay away from campus activities and not engage in social activities until the end of the LOA. They should not attend face-to-face lessons during the LOA and should engage in online learning whenever possible. They will be able to resume normal activities on the morning of Day 22 of their arrival.</p> <p>[^]Please refer to ICA's SHN and Swab Requirements for Travellers to Singapore for more details.</p>