

Ref: OSHE 030/21

CIRCULAR 26

22 July 2021

Staff and Students

**COVID-19: MOH HEALTH ALERTS AND UPDATE ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Dear Colleagues and Students

1. The Ministry of Health (MOH) will be issuing “Health Risk Warnings” and “Health Risk Alerts” as part of a more aggressive ringfencing of cases around hotspots. As such, the Leave of Absence (LOA) measures will be revised for staff and students.
2. With immediate effect, staff and students will be served LOA in the scenarios listed in the table below. This is in addition to the LOA measures listed in [OSHE Circular 22](#) dated 6 July 2021.

Scenario	Response
<p><b>1. Staff/students receive a “Health Risk Warning”</b></p> <p>a. Persons who are casual contacts of a COVID-19 case.</p> <p>b. Persons who have visited specific higher-risk hotspots on the same day as a COVID-19 case.</p>	<p>All staff/ students must declare to their Department/ Office if they have received a “Health Risk Warning”. These staff/students will be issued LOA until the respective individual’s <b>exit</b> Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test is negative.</p> <p>Students should continue with online learning as far as possible.</p> <p>Staff who can work from home can continue with their regular duties while on LOA.</p> <p>Staff/ students are to keep their Department/ Office updated.</p>
<p><b>2. Household members of staff/students receive a “Health Risk Warning”</b></p>	<p>All staff/ students must declare to their Department/ Office if any of their household members have received a “Health Risk Warning”. These staff/ students will be issued LOA until the affected household member’s PCR test is negative.</p> <p>Students should continue with online learning as far as possible.</p> <p>Staff who can work from home can continue with their regular duties while on LOA.</p> <p>Staff/ students are to keep their Department/Office updated.</p>

Scenario	Response
<p><b>3. Staff/students receive a “Health Risk Alert”</b></p> <p>Persons who have visited hotspot areas or their vicinity.</p>	<p>All staff/ students must declare to their Department/ Office if they have received a “Health Risk Alert”.</p> <p>Students do not need to be issued LOA and can continue to return to campus, if they are well.</p> <p>However, students are to purchase self-test ART kits from retail pharmacies and take a self-test. Students with a positive ART test result should seek medical attention immediately and not return to campus until they receive a negative confirmatory PCR test result. Students are to keep their Department/ Office updated.</p> <p>Staff are to purchase self-test ART kits from retail pharmacies and obtain a negative ART test result before returning to campus. Staff with a positive ART test result should seek medical attention immediately and not return to campus until they receive a negative confirmatory PCR test result. Staff are to keep their Department/ Office updated.</p>
<p><b>4. Household members of staff/students receive a “Health Risk Alert”</b></p>	<p>Staff/ student to monitor their health. No further action required.</p>

- Please continue to observe all safe management measures on our campuses, which include safe distancing, wearing of masks at all times, declaration of temperature through the uNivUS app, and the use of TraceTogether and NUSafe app. If you are unwell, please be socially responsibility and see a doctor immediately.
- If you have further questions, please check with the management office of your faculty, school or department, or email [COVID-19@nus.edu.sg](mailto:COVID-19@nus.edu.sg).

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**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](https://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.