

## **TALKING POINTS FOR EMPLOYERS OF FOREIGN WORKERS ON COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)**

Employers may wish to update their workers on a daily basis on the local COVID-19 situation and may find the following talking points useful.

### **Protective Measures Are In Place**

- Acknowledge workers' fear
- Assure them that the Singapore Government has taken measures to protect everyone in Singapore, including workers
  - Anyone who may be exposed to the virus are quarantined or asked to stay at home
- Explain measures company has put in place to protect workers, e.g. twice daily temperature taking, provide mask for those who are unwell, teach workers the 8-steps hand washing process and encourage them to wash their hands frequently; but everyone must do their part

### **About COVID-19**

- Highlight that COVID-19 is spread primarily by respiratory droplets
  - These droplets come out through saliva or when they sneeze
  - Through sharing of utensils, food and personal items
  - When in close proximity with others
- In other words, COVID-19 is not in the air. The risk of COVID-19 infection from transient contact, such as on public transport or public places, is low
- Therefore, they can protect themselves by practising personal hygiene as that will help to protect against COVID-19

### **Important to Practise Personal Hygiene**

Share the following good hygiene practices:

- Wash hands frequently with soap, especially before handling food or eating, or after going to the toilet
- Avoid touching the face with their hands
- Monitor their temperature twice daily
- Cover their mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of soiled tissue in the bin immediately
- Avoid sharing food, drinks, utensils and other personal hygiene items
- Avoid crowded places and large gatherings and close contact with people who display flu-like symptoms. Workers may wish to meet friends or access services and amenities away from crowded areas.
- Keep sleeping area clean and tidy

## **Be Socially Responsible**

- Advise workers with mild flu-like symptoms like cough, runny nose, sore throat or fever, to:
  - See a doctor
  - Not go to work
  - Avoid crowds
  - Stay at home
- Assure workers that they can seek medical care and company will not penalise them

## **Verify News and Not Circulate False Information**

- Highlight that false information about COVID-19 in Singapore are being disseminated through various social media channels
- Get workers to verify news, before sharing the news with others
- Advise workers not to forward or circulate any unverified information. Workers should advise sender and others who have received the messages not to circulate unverified information
- Highlight that Singapore Government is transparent
  - High number of cases because of extensive testing
  - No under-reporting
- Inform workers to obtain accurate and timely updates on COVID-19 from the Ministry of Health website at [www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19](http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19) or subscribe to <https://go.gov.sg/whatsapp> to receive updates via Whatsapp

## **Well-Being of Foreign Workers**

- Employers can appoint an officer for workers who are worried to approach and inform workers where they can approach this officer