



EMBARGOED UNTIL 15 MARCH 2020, 6.00PM

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER IMPORTATION OF COVID-19 CASES

Singapore will implement additional precautionary measures to further reduce the risk of importation of COVID-19 to Singapore. These include travel advisories against all non-essential travel abroad, and further restrictions on travellers coming into Singapore.

2. Globally, there are now more than 150,000 COVID-19 cases and more than 5,000 deaths across 135 countries, and the numbers are increasing rapidly. There have been more than 25,000 new cases since as recently as 12 March (when the Multi-Ministry Taskforce last issued precautionary measures) and a majority of these cases were reported outside of China. The World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that the epicentre of the outbreak has now shifted to Europe, and there are now more cases reported outside of China daily than that reported in China at the height of its epidemic. The number of new cases imported into mainland China from overseas has also surpassed its number of locally transmitted new infections.

3. In the past three days¹ alone, Singapore has seen an increase of 25 new cases. Of these, more than three-quarters were imported cases, of which close to 90 percent were Singapore Residents (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) and Singapore Long Term Pass holders who had returned to Singapore from overseas. During the same period, more than one quarter of imported cases were from ASEAN countries. We have seen a number of these cases entering Singapore for the purpose of seeking medical care, which imposes a significant burden on Singapore's healthcare resources during this critical period when we are focused on containing the situation within Singapore.

Border restrictions

4. Based on this latest situation, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will put in place additional border restriction measures. From 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all travellers (including Singapore Residents, Long Term Pass holders, and short-term visitors) entering Singapore with recent travel history to ASEAN countries², Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN).³ In addition, they will have to provide proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN, for example a hotel booking covering the entire

¹ As of 14 March, 12pm.

² ASEAN countries besides Singapore: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

³ The SHN will not apply to travellers transiting in Singapore without leaving the transit area.

period, or a place of residence they or their family members own. They may also be swabbed for testing for COVID-19, even if asymptomatic. This is because of the risk of community transmission in these countries and evidence of cases that have been imported from these countries into Singapore.

5. In addition to the SHN requirement, from 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, all short-term visitors who are nationals of any ASEAN country will have to submit requisite information on their health to the Singapore Overseas Mission in the country they are resident before their intended date of travel. The submission will have to be approved by Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) before travel to Singapore, and the approval will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the Singapore checkpoints. Short-term visitors who arrive in Singapore without the necessary approval will be denied entry into Singapore. They are therefore advised to secure the approval before making definitive travel bookings.

6. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will also introduce new measures for Foreign Domestic Workers entering Singapore. More details will be announced by MOM.

7. As previously announced, residents and long-term pass holders returning from mainland China (outside Hubei province⁴), Iran, Italy, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, and Spain will continue to be issued a 14-day SHN upon return to Singapore, while short-term visitors from these areas will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore.

8. All travellers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness are required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoints, regardless of travel history. Such travellers will also be issued a 14-day SHN, which they will have to serve in full even if the result of the swab test is negative. Those who meet the clinical suspect case definition will be conveyed to the hospital for follow-up.

9. Persons under SHN will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for 14 days after entering Singapore.

10. Singapore's border control measures in relation to COVID-19, including the new ones announced in this press statement, are summarised in the [Annex](#). These border restrictions will be reviewed in 30 days. The Taskforce may extend the border restriction measures to more countries as the global and local situation evolves.

Travel advisory

11. With immediate effect, Singaporeans are advised to defer all non-essential travel abroad. This advisory will apply for 30 days, and will be reviewed thereafter. This is to reduce the risk of Singaporeans contracting COVID-19 infection while overseas during this global pandemic.

12. Singaporeans who have made plans to travel abroad during the March school holidays are advised to review their plans. All travellers will be subject to the prevailing travel measures imposed by their destination countries, and those imposed by

⁴ Persons returning from Hubei province are subject to quarantine.

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Singapore upon their return home. As the situation remains uncertain and will continue to evolve, Singaporeans are advised to review their travel plans for the coming months after the March school holidays as well.

13. As Singapore's measures will evolve according to the global situation, Singaporeans should check the MOH website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest measures.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
15 MARCH 2020

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List of Countries/ Regions and Border Control Measures

Travel History in the last 14-days in Countries/Regions	For Singapore Residents and Long-Term Pass Holders	For Short-Term Visitors
Hubei province (mainland China)	14-day quarantine	Not allowed entry or transit
Mainland China (except Hubei province), France, Germany, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, and Spain	14-day SHN	Not allowed entry or transit
[New] ASEAN countries	14-day SHN	14-day SHN Short-term visitors who are ASEAN nationals will also be required to submit requisite health information for approval before travelling
[New] Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom	14-day SHN	14-day SHN



P R E S S R E L E A S E

15 March 2020

MOM ENTRY APPROVAL AND STAY-HOME NOTICES EXTENDED TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, JAPAN, SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

In view of the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the world, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) will implement additional precautionary measures to further reduce the risk of importation of the virus to Singapore.

MOM'S ENTRY APPROVAL

2 From 16 March 2020, 2359 hours, MOM will require all work pass holders (including dependants) with travel history to ASEAN countries¹, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days and planning to enter/return to Singapore, to obtain MOM's approval before they commence their journey. This is regardless of the nationality of the work pass holder. The entry approval requirement applies to:

- a. Existing work pass holders currently out of Singapore; and
- b. In-Principle Approval holders who have yet to enter Singapore.

3 Upon arrival in Singapore, all affected work pass holders will be placed on a mandatory 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN). When applying for entry approval, employers will be required to declare to MOM that they have arranged for suitable premises to house these entering/returning employees for the duration of their SHN.

4 Employers are required to apply for entry approval using this [online facility](#). Employers should inform their affected employees (including their dependants) not to make travel plans to Singapore until approval has been received from MOM. The employers will be required to send the MOM approval letter to the employees who will need to show it to the airline staff upon check-in and at the ICA checkpoint upon arrival in Singapore.

5 The entry approval requirement for work pass holders (including dependants) with travel history to mainland China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, France, Spain and Germany within the last 14 days, remains unchanged.

STAY-HOME NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

6 Employers and work pass holders have a joint duty to ensure that the SHN is complied with. Work pass holders who have been put on a SHN shall not leave their place of residence. They should monitor their health closely and seek medical attention

¹ List of ASEAN countries besides Singapore: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

immediately if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.

7 Work pass holders on SHN can make their own arrangements to procure their daily necessities, such as meals and daily essentials. This could include requesting their house or dormitory mates to help procure these for them or ordering home delivery services. Employers are responsible to ensure that their work pass holders on SHN can obtain meals and other daily essentials. If the work pass holder is unable to make his own arrangements, the employer will have to make the necessary arrangements. If support from employers is not forthcoming, work pass holders should report their difficulties to MOM.

8 MOM will not hesitate to take enforcement measures against errant employers or employees who do not comply with the requirements set out above, including the revocation of work passes and withdrawal of work pass privileges.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME (LOASP) EXTENDED TO THOSE SERVING STAY-HOME NOTICE

9 MOM has extended the Leave of Absence Support Programme (LOASP) to businesses and self-employed persons affected by the SHN requirements due to COVID-19 since 18 February 2020, 2359 hours.

10 Under the LOASP, eligible employers will be able to apply for \$100 daily per affected worker for the required duration of SHN. Affected workers include Singapore Citizens (SC), Permanent Residents (PR), and Work Pass holders who were placed on SHN upon their return to Singapore. Eligible employers will also qualify for levy waiver for affected foreign workers for the SHN period.

11 Businesses and self-employed SCs and PRs will be eligible for the LOASP if work was not performed remotely by affected persons or workers on SHN, and if they were placed on LOA or SHN upon their return to Singapore after:

- A. Travelling to mainland China on or before 31 January 2020; or
- B. Travelling to Daegu city or Cheongdo county in South Korea on or before 26 Feb 2020; or
- C. Travelling to South Korea, Northern Italy², or Iran before 4 March 2020; or
- D. Travelling to Italy, Spain, France or Germany on or before 15 March 2020; or
- E. Traveling to ASEAN countries, Japan, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom on or before 16 March 2020

12 For more information on the eligibility criteria and application process, please refer to MOM's press release [here](#).

FURTHER ADVISORY

13 Employers and employees should closely monitor COVID-19-related developments and comply with both the travel and health advisories on the MOH website. Employees are urged to cooperate with their employers.

² Refers to the eight administrative regions: Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol

14 As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, there may be additional requirements imposed on work pass holders from time to time. While MOM will publicise these requirements widely, it may not be possible to inform every employer or employee directly about each new set of requirements. Employers and employees are strongly advised to check the MOM's website (<http://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest advisories.

15 For further queries or clarifications, please contact:

a. Ministry of Manpower

MOM Contact Centre

Online Enquiry via this link: www.mom.gov.sg/feedback

Website: www.mom.gov.sg

b. Ministry of Health

MOH Emergency Line, Tel: (65) 1800 333 9999

Online Enquiry via this link: <https://crms.moh.gov.sg/mohfeedback.aspx>

Website: www.moh.gov.sg

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