



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR  
NO. 15 OF 2020

20 Mar 2020

Harbour Craft Community  
Pleasure Craft Community  
Shipping Community

**EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) IN SINGAPORE**

1. Since 24 January 2020, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has implemented temperature screening at all sea checkpoints, including ferry and cruise terminals, PSA terminals and Jurong Port, for inbound travellers. MPA has also put up health advisories at the sea checkpoints to inform travellers and ship crew on the precautionary measures to take when travelling, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices.

2. In line with Singapore Ministry of Health's (MOH) press releases dated 31 January 2020 (**ANNEX A**), 25 February 2020 (**ANNEX B**), 03 March 2020 (**ANNEX C**), 13 March 2020 (**ANNEX D**), 15 March 2020 (**ANNEX E**) and 18 March 2020 (**ANNEX F**) the MPA will extend the precautionary measures to all ships calling the Port of Singapore.

Border Restrictions

3. Crew/passengers onboard arriving vessels that have called at ports in mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea and Spain within the last 14 days shall remain onboard the vessels during the vessel's stay in port.

4. Crew/passengers with recent travel history to mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea and Spain within the last 14 days shall remain onboard the vessels during the vessels' stay in port.

5. Crew/passengers<sup>1</sup> arriving from countries other than mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea and Spain who wish to land ashore will be served with Stay Home Notice<sup>2</sup> (SHN).

6. With effect from 13 March 2020, Singapore has ceased port calls for all cruise vessels.

#### Crew Change in Singapore

7. The owners, agents or masters who intend to perform crew change in Singapore, should take note that the signing on and signing off crew is to be served with SHN. Nonetheless, any queries relating to crew change can be directed to [shipping@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:shipping@mpa.gov.sg) or [pms@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:pms@mpa.gov.sg).

#### Precautionary testing for symptomatic travellers at regional ferry terminals

8. All travellers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever (i.e. temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius) and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness may be required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the regional ferry terminals, regardless of travel history. They will be issued a 14-day SHN or returned to their point of origin.

9. Short-term visitors<sup>3</sup> who arrive in Singapore without the necessary approval will be denied entry into Singapore.

#### Advice for shipping community

10. MPA advises the shipping community to adhere closely to the health advisory in **ANNEX G**. The National Environment Agency's (NEA) Port Health requires the following vessels to submit the Maritime Declaration of Health Form (refer to Port Marine Circular 14 of 2020):

- a. All arriving vessels with crew/passengers with recent travel history to ASEAN countries, mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain within the last 14 days; or
- b. All arriving vessels that have called at ports in ASEAN countries, mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain within the last 14 days.

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<sup>1</sup> All crew/passengers who are nationals of any ASEAN country\* must submit health information for clearance by Singapore's Ministry of Health before their intended date of travel. Approved applications will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority at the Singapore checkpoints. Visitors without the necessary approval, or proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day Stay-Home Notice, or do not meet prevailing entry requirements, will be denied entry.

<sup>2</sup> Crew/passengers are required to provide proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day SHN, for example a hotel booking covering the entire period, or a place of residence they or their family own.

<sup>3</sup> Short-term visitors who are nationals of any ASEAN country\* must submit health information for clearance by Singapore's Ministry of Health before their intended date of travel. Approved applications will be verified by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority at the Singapore checkpoints. Visitors without the necessary approval, or proof of the place where they will serve the 14-day Stay-Home Notice, or do not meet prevailing entry requirements, will be denied entry.

11. MPA also urges all crew members onboard to have their temperature taken twice daily. There are also guidelines on how to isolate unwell crew and passengers. For guidance on the disinfection protocols of common areas and rooms in the vessel, please refer to the NEA's website for the Interim Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection of Areas Exposed to Confirmed Case(s) of COVID-19 in Non-Healthcare Premises, and the Interim Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection of Premises with Transient Exposure to Confirmed Case(s) of COVID-19, if needed. If any of their crew or passengers are unwell, they should report the incident to the Marine Safety Control Centre at 6325 2488/2489.

12. Managers/supervisors of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers are to take note of the health advisory in **ANNEX H** and bring it to the attention of staff who are required to work on board ships.

#### Advice for Singapore-Registered Vessels

13. Ship owners, managers, operators, agents and masters of Singapore-registered vessels should monitor the health of their crew closely. Masters of such vessels are required to report to their company, MPA and destination port authorities, if their crew are unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose, shortness of breath) or feel feverish. They should also make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Refer to the health advisory in **ANNEX I**.

#### Industry-led Initiatives

14. Temperature Screening at Ferry Terminals. Since 08 February 2020, 2359hrs, ferry terminal operators have implemented centralised outbound temperature screening for departing passengers. This is an additional precautionary measure by the terminal operators to ensure the health and safety of all passengers and crew.

15. Cleaning and Disinfection. Ferry operators have also stepped up their cleaning and disinfection regime on board the ferries, especially in common or public areas to help prevent the widespread transmission of COVID-19.

#### Measures by Port Terminal Operators

16. PSA and Jurong Port are also taking precautionary measures for employees returning to Singapore. Some of these measures include allowing eligible staff to telecommute and providing frontline staff with paid Leave of Absence where they are unable to work remotely.

This circular supersedes Port Marine Circular No. 13 of 2020 on 20 March 2020, 2359hrs.

CAPT KEVIN WONG  
PORT MASTER  
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

**MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SINGAPORE, DATED 31 JANUARY 2020**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

Press Release

On Tuesday, 28 January 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced additional measures to limit the risk that travellers from Hubei pose to Singapore. These measures have been fully implemented.

2. On 30 January, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared China's novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). This declaration sets the stage for a global coordinated effort to enhance preparedness in other regions of the world. WHO believes that it is still possible to interrupt the spread of the virus, provided that countries put in place strong preparedness and response measures. Indeed, there has been increased action worldwide to limit the global spread of the virus by restricting the entry of possible contacts and cases into other countries.

3. While the majority of confirmed cases in China are still linked to Hubei province, MOH understands that there is a growing possibility that more individuals from other parts of China may be infected with the virus. Significantly, the virus has spread to every region of mainland China. The number of reported infections in China has also doubled since 28 January, to over 9,000, and the likelihood of widespread community transmission in other parts of China is now high. As a result, we are likely to see a sharper rise in the local transmission of the virus in Chinese cities beyond the Hubei province in the coming days.

4. In view of the growing possibility of transmission from new travellers arriving from other parts of mainland China, MOH has assessed that it is prudent to take additional pre-emptive measures at this stage. Therefore, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on the Wuhan Coronavirus has decided to take further steps to limit the potential risk that new travellers arriving from mainland China pose to Singapore.

**New visitors with travel history in mainland China or with PRC passports**

5. From 1 February 2020, 2359h, all new visitors with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or to transit through Singapore.

6. In the same context, with immediate effect, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will suspend the issuance of all forms of new visas to those with PRC passports. We will also suspend Singapore's status as a visa-free transit facility for those with PRC passports.

7. Previously issued short-term and multiple-visit visas for those with PRC passports will also be suspended. During this period of suspension, they will not be allowed entry into Singapore.

**Returning residents and long-term pass holders with travel history in mainland China**

8. With immediate effect, the following returning groups will be issued an advisory for them to be placed on a 14-day leave of absence from the day of their return from China:

- a. Residents (Singaporean Citizens/ PRs) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days; and

- b. Long-term pass holders (including Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependent Pass and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days.
9. Persons who have been put on a leave of absence should stay at home and avoid social contact. They should avoid crowded places and refrain from attending social or public gatherings. They should monitor their health closely, and seek medical attention immediately if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.
10. This is an expansion of the previous measures already implemented for people who interact closely with vulnerable populations in certain sectors — childcare and education, healthcare and eldercare.
11. Previously announced quarantine requirements for returning residents and long-term pass holders with travel history to Hubei, or with PRC passports issued in Hubei, remain in effect.

**Remaining cautious and calm**

12. There remains no evidence of community spread in Singapore, and these latest measures are aimed at minimising the risk of this occurring. They will also help to stem the global spread of the virus. These latest steps are part of a calibrated series of measures we have taken as the situation of the virus outbreak has evolved. The Taskforce will continue to monitor the situation and take further steps as needed.
13. Meanwhile, Singaporeans can continue to play their part by being socially responsible and practising good personal hygiene habits. They should wash their hands regularly. Those who are unwell should wear a mask and see a doctor immediately. But there is no need to wear a mask if you are well.
14. At the same time, Singaporeans can help each other to cope with the disruptions that these new restrictions may cause. The Government will do its part to support businesses and workers that are affected.
15. We urge Singaporeans to remain calm, and to refer to official sources such as the MOH website or subscribe to the [gov.sg](#) WhatsApp, to get the latest updates on the situation.

**MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES  
IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING SITUATION IN DAEGU AND CHEONGDO,  
DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2020**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

Press Release

**ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING SITUATION IN  
DAEGU AND CHEONGDO**

In view of the surge in the number of confirmed cases in the Republic of Korea, particularly in Daegu city and Cheongdo county, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will put in place further precautionary measures to limit the risk that travellers from these affected regions pose to Singapore.

16. As of 25 February 2020, 12pm, the Republic of Korea has reported 893 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection. These include 501 cases linked to the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in Daegu, and 113 from Daenam Hospital in Cheongdo. 246 cases are currently under investigation and are not linked to either cluster. Daegu and Cheongdo have been designated as “special care zones”. The Republic of Korea government has raised the alert level to the highest level of ‘grave’, and has aggressively strengthened its response system to reduce the risk of further transmission.

17. With the rapidly evolving situation in these regions, visitors from Daegu and Cheongdo and returning travellers from these regions pose a heightened risk to Singapore. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce has decided to step up precautionary measures to limit the potential risk this group poses to Singapore, based on the current risk assessment.

**New visitors with travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo**

18. From 26 February 2020, 2359 hours, all new visitors with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.

**Returning residents and long-term pass holders placed on Stay-Home Notice**

19. The following returning groups will be issued with a Stay-Home Notice (SHN):
- a) Residents (Singaporean Citizens and Permanent Residents) with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days; and
  - b) Long-term pass holders (including work passes and permits, Student’s Pass, Dependant’s Pass, and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to Daegu and Cheongdo within the last 14 days.

Under the SHN, they will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for a 14-day period after returning to Singapore.

20. As announced on 22 February, the Ministry of Health (MOH) advises travellers to avoid non-essential travel to Daegu and Cheongdo. The public are also reminded to continue to exercise caution when travelling to the rest of the Republic of Korea.

21. MOH has already expanded the definition of suspect cases to include persons with pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness who had been to Daegu and/or Cheongdo of the Republic of Korea, within 14 days before onset of symptoms. Cases meeting the expanded definition will be referred to hospitals for further assessment.

22. The previously announced travel advisory for Singaporeans to defer all travel to Hubei Province and all non-essential travel to Mainland China, as well as measures on Hubei travellers and returning residents from Hubei, remain in place.

23. MOH will continue to monitor the situation closely. The Taskforce stands ready to put in place further measures as the situation evolves.

### **Health Advisory**

24. All travellers should monitor their health closely for two weeks upon return to Singapore and seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell. Travellers should inform their doctor of their travel history. If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of the visit.

25. Travellers and members of the public should adopt the following precautions at all times:

- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- Observe good personal hygiene;
- Practise frequent hand washing with soap (e.g. before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing);
- Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or shortness of breath;
- Cover your mouth with a tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately; and
- Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell.

26. Given the evolving situation and ongoing investigations in the Republic of Korea, Singapore residents who need to travel to the affected areas are advised to regularly check MOH's website ([www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)) for updates. Travellers to the Republic of Korea are also advised to stay vigilant, monitor developments and heed the advice of the local authorities while in the Republic of Korea.

**MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES  
IN RESPONSE TO ESCALATING GLOBAL SITUATION, DATED 03 MARCH 2020**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

Press Release

In view of the surge in the number of confirmed cases around the world – in particular in Iran, northern Italy[1], Japan and Republic of Korea – the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will put in place further precautionary measures to limit the risk that these affected regions may pose to Singapore.

2. As of 3 March 2020, 12pm, there were 90,689 confirmed cases of COVID-19 globally, including 10,538 cases outside mainland China. The Republic of Korea has reported 4,812 cases, an increase of 600 cases in the last day. There were 1,835 cases reported in Italy, mostly in its northern region. Iran has reported 1,501 cases, an increase of 523 cases in the last day, and Japan has confirmed 268 cases.

3. The Taskforce is monitoring the situation closely. It will continue to take a calibrated and risk-based approach in determining the appropriate precautions and measures for Singapore. In the days ahead, it is likely that we will see a surge of infected cases in countries around the world, including in America, Europe, the Middle East and the rest of Asia. Singapore is a small, globally-connected city-state, and we are faced with a higher risk of imported cases.

**Additional precautions for outgoing and incoming travellers**

4. To protect Singaporeans, the Taskforce will put in place additional precautions for outgoing and incoming travelers.

5. In particular, Singaporeans are advised to defer non-essential travel to Iran, northern Italy, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Singaporeans should note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' advisory issued on 8 January 2020 against travelling to or remaining in Iran due to rising tensions in the Middle East remains in place.

6. As the situation will continue to evolve, Singapore residents who need to travel to the affected regions are advised to regularly check the Ministry of Health's (MOH) website for updates. Travellers are also advised to stay vigilant, monitor developments and heed the advice of the local authorities while overseas.

7. From 4 March 2020, 2359 hours, all new visitors with recent travel history to Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore. With immediate effect, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will suspend the issuance of all forms of new visas to those with Iranian passports[2]. Previously issued short-term and multiple-visit visas for those with Iranian passports will also be suspended. During this period of suspension, they will not be allowed entry into Singapore.

8. From 4 March 2020, 2359 hours, the following returning groups will be issued with a Stay-Home Notice (SHN):

- a) Residents (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) with recent travel history to Iran, northern Italy, or the Republic of Korea within the last 14 days; and
- b) Long-term pass holders (including work passes, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea within the last 14 days.

Under the SHN, they will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for a 14-day period after returning to Singapore.

### **Expanded clinical case definition**

9. MOH has expanded the definition of suspect cases to include persons with pneumonia or severe respiratory infection with breathlessness who had been to Iran, northern Italy, Japan and the Republic of Korea within 14 days before onset of symptoms. Cases meeting the expanded definition will be referred to hospitals for further assessment.

### **Precautionary testing for symptomatic travellers**

10. From 4 March 2020, 2359 hours, travellers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness but who do not meet the clinical suspect case definition may be required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoint.[3] They may carry on with their journey immediately after undergoing the test. Pending the results, which may take between three and six hours, the travellers are advised to minimise contact with others as a precautionary measure. Individuals will be contacted on their swab test results and those with positive results will be conveyed to the hospital in a dedicated ambulance.

11. Short-term visitors who are identified for testing but refuse to do so will not be allowed entry into Singapore. Singapore Permanent Residents and long-term pass holders who refuse testing may have their immigration facilities and work pass privileges revoked or the validity shortened. All travellers, including Singapore Citizens, who do not comply with the testing or who cannot be contacted subsequently may face penalties and can be prosecuted under the Infectious Diseases Act.

12. The COVID-19 swab test kit deployed at checkpoints allows us to test beyond persons who are referred to hospitals, and extend testing to lower-risk symptomatic travellers as an added precautionary measure. This additional testing capability deployed upfront at checkpoints further increases our likelihood of detecting imported cases at the point of entry. As with any test, a negative result does not completely rule out the possibility of infection. As such, symptomatic travellers with a negative test result should continue to minimise social contact and seek medical attention should symptoms not improve over the next three days.

### **Preparing ahead**

13. The additional precautions we are taking will help to reduce the risk of imported cases in Singapore. But the virus is spreading quickly around the world, and there are likely to be many undetected cases in countries that are not undertaking proactive testing. So we will be exposed to new waves of infection, and increasingly it will not be possible to stop the virus at our borders. We also cannot isolate Singapore and shut ourselves from the world. So despite our best efforts, we have to be prepared for new spikes in COVID-19 cases in Singapore, as has happened elsewhere.

14. We will therefore have to redouble our efforts within Singapore. All of us have a role to play. The Government will continue to put in resources to detect and isolate all cases of infection, as well as identify and quarantine their close contacts so as to break the chain of infection. Individuals will need to continue with practices that have proven effective in reducing the spread of infectious diseases. These include:

- Staying home when unwell and during the period covered by medical certificates;
- Practising good personal hygiene such as washing hands regularly with soap and water, and not touching the face unnecessarily; and
- Cleaning up after oneself at hawker centres and not sharing utensils.

These need to become part of our daily life permanently. Such habits will enable us to resist infections like COVID-19, while going about our daily lives normally as much as possible.

[1] Refers to eight administrative regions in northern Italy: Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol.

[2] Travellers from Italy and the Republic of Korea do not require visas to visit Singapore.

[3] Travellers who meet the clinical suspect case definition will be conveyed directly to the hospital.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
3 MARCH 2020

**MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER IMPORTATION AND SPREAD OF COVID-19 CASES, DATED 13 MARCH 2020**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

Press Release

Singapore will implement additional precautionary measures to slow the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. These include travel advisories against all non-essential travel and border restrictions for Italy, France, Spain and Germany, as well as additional social distancing measures within Singapore.

2. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic on 11 March 2020, and called upon governments around the world to do more to combat the virus. The WHO cited Singapore as a country that has already taken proactive measures to contain the virus. Still, as the co-chairs of the Multi-Ministry Taskforce said on Tuesday, and as the Prime Minister warned in a national broadcast yesterday, we must take additional measures, including further temporary travel restrictions, to break the transmission of the virus.

3. In the past two weeks, the number of cases of COVID-19 outside China has increased more than ten-fold, and the number of affected countries has tripled. There are now more than 125,000 cases in 118 countries, and more than 4,000 deaths. In Singapore, as of 12 March, almost 25% of our total number of confirmed cases were imported. Over the past ten days alone, there have been 23 imported cases, or nearly a third of all new cases. These included 13 cases with travel history to European countries, and six cases from Indonesia.

**Travel advisory**

4. In light of the rapid spread of the virus across Europe, the Ministry of Health (MOH) advises Singaporeans to defer all non-essential travel to Italy, France, Spain and Germany. The four countries have had very high numbers of cases and very high rates of increase. In addition, our existing advisory to defer all travel to Hubei province in mainland China, and non-essential travel to the rest of mainland China, Iran<sup>1</sup>, Japan and the Republic of Korea, remains.

5. Singaporeans are also advised to exercise caution when travelling to all countries affected by COVID-19, especially those which have exported cases (see [Annex](#)). These include our neighbouring countries, like Indonesia and the Philippines, and those further afield, like the United Kingdom. The global picture is evolving, and there could be other countries that may be affected.

6. Singaporeans who have made plans to travel during the upcoming March school holidays are advised to review their plans based on the latest advisory. All travellers will be subject to the prevailing travel measures imposed by their destination countries, and those imposed by Singapore upon their return home. 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.

## **Border restrictions**

7. Given the increase in imported cases from European countries, we are putting in place new border restrictions.
  - a. From 15 March 2020, 2359 hours, all new visitors with recent travel history to Italy, France, Spain and Germany within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or transit through Singapore.
  - b. From 15 March 2020, 2359 hours, the following groups will be issued with a Stay-Home Notice (SHN):
    - i. Residents (Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents) with recent travel history to Italy, France, Spain and Germany within the last 14 days; and
    - ii. Long-term pass holders (including work passes, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass, and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to Italy, France, Spain and Germany within the last 14 days.
8. Persons under SHN will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for 14 days after returning to Singapore.
9. As previously announced, residents and long-term pass holders returning from mainland China (outside Hubei province<sup>2</sup>), Iran, and the Republic of Korea will continue to be issued a 14-day SHN upon return to Singapore.
10. All these border restrictions are temporary, and will be reviewed regularly based on the global situation.

## **Additional precautionary measures**

11. Since 4 March 2020, travellers entering Singapore and exhibiting fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness are required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoint, regardless of travel history. With immediate effect, all such travellers will also be issued a 14-day SHN<sup>3</sup>, 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.
12. With immediate effect, Singapore will cease port calls for all cruise vessels.

## **Social distancing**

13. In order to reduce the risk of local transmission, we will introduce requirements and advisories for events and gatherings, workplaces and public venues. This is to limit large crowds gathering in close proximity over a prolonged duration.

### Advisory for events and gatherings

14. All ticketed cultural, sports and entertainment events, with 250 participants or more, are to be deferred or cancelled. For events that have already been committed (e.g. tickets sold), organisers must demonstrate that satisfactory precautionary measures have been put in place before they can proceed.
15. For all other mass gatherings including private functions and religious services, organisers are advised to put in place the following precautions:
  - a. Reduce the scale of events to below 250 participants where possible;
  - b. Reduce the crowding of participants and improve ventilation. For example, participants could be seated at least a metre apart from one another, and be advised to reduce contact with others (e.g. avoid shaking hands);

- c. Put in place temperature and health screening measures, as well as turn away persons who are unwell; and
  - d. Put in place measures to facilitate contact tracing if needed, such as obtaining contact details of participants.
16. Participants are also advised to practise social responsibility - monitor their own health condition and avoid attending gatherings and events if unwell.

#### Advisory for workplaces

17. Employers are advised to put in place measures to reduce close contact where feasible. For example, employers should implement tele-commuting and video-conferencing where possible, as well as stagger work hours, and allow employees to commute at off-peak hours. Seating in meeting rooms and work stations could also be spaced apart.

#### Advisory for public venues

18. Owners/ tenants of venues which are accessible to the public are advised to put in place measures to reduce close contact by patrons/customers, where possible. For instance:

- a. Dining venues could set seats at least a metre apart;
- b. Entertainment venues and tourist attractions (e.g. casinos, cinemas, theme parks, museums, and galleries) could limit the number of visitors at any one time, and/or increase spacing among visitors; and
- c. Sports centres with indoor facilities (e.g. gyms, private academies) could limit the number of patrons, introduce physical separation measures, increase the frequency of cleaning, as well as issue advisories to reduce unnecessary contact, and practise public hygiene.

19. The above advisories for events, gatherings, workplaces and public venues will be subject to further review based on the global situation.

### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH 13 MARCH 2020**

<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' advisory issued on 8 January 2020 against travelling to or remaining in Iran due to rising tensions in the Middle East remains in place.

<sup>2</sup> Persons returning from Hubei province are subject to quarantine.

<sup>3</sup> Places where foreign visitors serve out their SHN period can include hotels.

**MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER IMPORTATION AND SPREAD OF COVID-19 CASES, DATED 15 MARCH 2020**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

## Press Release

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 days<sup>4</sup> 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 countries<sup>5</sup>, Japan, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom within the last 14 days will be issued with a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN).<sup>6</sup> 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 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

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<sup>4</sup> As of 14 March, 12pm.

<sup>5</sup> ASEAN countries besides Singapore: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam.

<sup>6</sup> The SHN will not apply to travellers transiting in Singapore without leaving the transit area.

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 province<sup>7</sup>), 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 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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<sup>7</sup> Persons returning from Hubei province are subject to quarantine.

## MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER IMPORTATION AND SPREAD OF COVID-19 CASES, DATED 18 MARCH 2020



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
SINGAPORE

Press Release

In view of the heightened risk of importation of COVID-19 cases into Singapore, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will implement additional measures for all travellers entering Singapore.

2. Globally, there has been a sharp increase in cases and widening spread across the world. To date, there are close to 200,000 COVID-19 cases across 159 countries, and more than 7,900 deaths. Many countries have seen an exponential rise in cases recently, and more than 40,000 new cases have been reported in the past three days. Globally the number of cases and deaths has surpassed those in China since the beginning of the outbreak. The World Health Organization has urged its member states to take urgent and aggressive measures to stop the transmission of COVID-19.

3. In Singapore, over the past three days<sup>8</sup>[1], about 70 percent of our new COVID-19 cases were imported, most of whom were Singapore residents and long-term pass holders returning to Singapore after travel abroad.

### Singaporeans advised to defer all travel abroad

4. In view of the heightened risk of further importation of COVID-19 to Singapore, Singaporeans are advised to defer all travel abroad with immediate effect. This supercedes our earlier advisory announced on 15 March to defer all non-essential travel abroad<sup>9</sup>. The expansion of the travel advisory is to reduce the risk of Singaporeans being infected with the virus when abroad, and spreading it to other Singaporeans when they return.

### 14-Day Stay-Home Notice for all travellers

5. To further reduce the risk of further importation leading to community spread in Singapore, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce will put in place additional measures for all travellers entering Singapore. From 20 March 2020, 2359 hours, all Singaporeans, Permanent Residents, Long Term Pass holders and short term visitors entering Singapore will be issued a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN)<sup>10</sup>. 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 period, or a place of residence they or their family members own.

6. As announced previously, short-term visitors with recent travel history to mainland China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Republic of Korea and Spain, are not allowed to enter or transit in Singapore.

7. For the land crossings with Malaysia, there are already restrictions imposed by Malaysia under their Movement Control Order. The Singapore-Malaysia Special Working Committee (co-chaired by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean, and Malaysian Senior Minister and Minister of Defence Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob and Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Ir. Hasni Mohammad) are discussing a joint mitigation plan to ensure the safe and sustainable movement of people, goods and services between the two countries. More details will be announced when ready.

<sup>8</sup> As of 18 March, 12pm.

<sup>9</sup> Singaporeans are also advised to defer all travel to Hubei province (mainland China).

<sup>10</sup> The SHN will not apply to travellers transiting in Singapore without leaving the transit area.

8. Persons under SHN will have to remain in their place of residence at all times for 14 days after entering Singapore.
9. The existing measures which apply to all inbound travellers, such as requiring those who exhibit fever and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the checkpoints, will continue to apply.
10. Singapore's measures for inbound travellers in relation to COVID-19, including the new ones announced in this press statement, are summarised in the Annex.
11. 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.

**HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR OPERATORS, OWNERS, MASTERS, PERSONS IN CHARGE AND CREW MEMBERS OF HARBOUR AND PLEASURE CRAFT**

**Precautions to take to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection**

1. Operators, owners, masters and persons-in-charge and crew members of harbour craft and pleasure craft should take the following precautions:

- a. Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds;
- b. Avoid consumption of raw and undercooked meat;
- c. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- d. Observe good personal hygiene;
- e. Practice frequent hand washing with soap;
- f. Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- g. Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- h. Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell
- i. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew

**Managing unwell passenger(s)**

2. The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are:

- a. Fever (temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
- b. Runny nose;
- c. Cough; and
- d. Shortness of breath

3. Masters/crew members who notice any passenger who is unwell and displaying the above symptoms should:

- a. Notify the operators, owners, or persons-in-charge who should then immediately report this to the Marine Safety Control Centre (Tel: +65 6325-2488/2489) and arrange for appropriate medical assistance.
- b. Provide a surgical mask to the passenger who is unwell.
- c. Wear a surgical mask when attending to the passenger who is unwell.
- d. Surgical masks should be changed regularly, and if they are soiled or wet.
- e. If a surgical mask is not available, the passenger should cover his/ her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing.
- f. All masks, napkins, tissues, utensils and trays used by the passenger who is unwell should be disposed in leak-resistant plastic bags.

### **Monitor your health**

4. Crew members should be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. Any crew member who develops such symptoms in Singapore within 14 days of coming into contact with a passenger who is unwell should seek medical attention immediately. The crew member should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of his/her visit.

**HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHORE PERSONNEL VISITING SHIPS ALONGSIDE THE WHARVES AND AT THE ANCHORAGES**

1. Managers/supervisors of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers are to take note of the following health advisory and bring it to the attention of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships.

**Precautions to take to minimise the risk of infection**

2. Shore personnel refer to any persons, other than the ship's crew, who are required to board ships alongside wharves or at the anchorages to deliver services requested by ships. They include staff of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers.

3. To minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection, all personnel should take the following precautions:

- a. Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds;
- b. Avoid consumption of raw and undercooked meat;
- c. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- d. Observe good personal hygiene;
- e. Practise frequent hand washing with soap;
- f. Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- g. Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- h. Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell; and
- i. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew

4. Managers/supervisors should closely monitor the health of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships. Shore personnel exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, and shortness of breath, should not be sent on board ships. Medical attention should be sought immediately.

5. Before boarding any ship, shore personnel should check with the ship master or duty officer if there are any procedures and/or guidelines to be observed, and adhere to them when on board the ship.

**HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHIPOWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, AGENTS AND MASTERS OF SINGAPORE REGISTERED SHIPS**

1. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) urges operators of Singapore Registered Ships (SRS) to take precautionary measures, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices at all times.
2. Shipowners, ship managers, agents and masters of SRS are to closely monitor the health of their crew on board. If they develop any of the symptoms of the COVID-19, they should be given immediate medical attention. The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are:
  - a. Fever (temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
  - b. Runny nose;
  - c. Cough; and
  - d. Shortness of breath
3. Ship crew who feel unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) or feel feverish, should inform the ship master immediately. The ship master should then inform the company, destination port authority and ship agent to make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Shipowners and masters are to report all occurrences to MPA using the report form found in MPA Shipping Circular No. 4 of 2013.
4. For further information on the COVID-19, please visit the Ministry of Health website at [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)
5. Any queries regarding this Annex should be directed to MPA Shipping (Email: [shipping@mpa.gov.sg](mailto:shipping@mpa.gov.sg); Tel: +65 6375 6251).