

26 August 2022

Dear Student Care Operators

Revised Measures for Student Care Centres (SCCs) Against COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

This circular summarises all relevant measures from all COVID-19 related circulars issued by MSF to-date.

As infection numbers in the community have steadily declined across all age groups since late July, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced on 24 August 2022 that it will further ease community measures from 29 August 2022. Please refer to the MTF press release for details: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/emerging-safer-and-stronger-together>

2 In line with the national transition towards living with COVID-19, we have updated the safe management measures (SMMs) for SCCs (see [Annex A](#)). Nonetheless, we must remain alert and be ready to respond with new measures quickly if new variants surface.

3 Keeping SCCs safe is a collective responsibility. Staff and parents are urged to follow the health protocols to safeguard the health and safety of all children and staff. Staff/children shall not come to the SCC when unwell. Staff/children who are unwell or have had recent contact with an infected person are strongly encouraged to self-test using an Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kit.

COVID-Safe Access

a. Visitor management

4 **From 29 August 2022, restrictions on visitors to SCCs will be lifted.** This includes restrictions on external guests during celebrations (e.g. birthday celebrations). However, SCCs shall continue to perform visual and temperature checks on visitors. SCCs should exercise good judgement to avoid overcrowding in the classrooms (e.g. limiting the number of visitors, scheduling time slots for visitors).

b. Health and travel declarations

5 **From 29 August 2022, SCCs are no longer required to monitor the travel plans of staff and children.**

6 SCCs shall continue to monitor closely the health of staff and children. SCCs are to remind staff and parents to declare when an enrolled child or staff tests positive for COVID-19 (either ART or PCR). This will enable SCCs to inform parents of new COVID-19 cases and allow parents to make an informed decision whether to send their child to the SCC.

7 Staff/parents should also inform the SCC if the staff/child has had recent contact with an infected person (e.g. household member). This will allow the SCC to monitor more closely the health of the staff/child.

COVID-Safe Behaviour

a. Wearing of masks in SCCs

8 MTF will remove the legal requirement for mask-wearing in indoor settings from 29 August 2022, except in selected healthcare and public transport settings. **In line with the national posture, masks will be optional for staff and children in SCCs from 29 August 2022.** Mask-wearing on school buses will also be optional. Mask-wearing remains an effective way to minimise the risk of disease transmission. If an SCC staff/ child becomes unwell in the SCC, they are advised to exercise social responsibility to wear a mask and promptly leave the premises to seek medical attention.

b. Showering

9 **From 29 August 2022, SCCs may allow the children to use the shower facilities if available.** SCCs are to ensure that the showers/contact areas are rinsed carefully after each use.

10 SCCs should communicate clearly to parents their policy on showering, including measures to keep children clean, and work out a mutually acceptable arrangement with parents who request their child to be showered.

COVID-Safe Classroom

a. Grouping of children

11 **From 29 August 2022, grouping of children according to their classes/fixed groups will no longer be required.** This will allow SCCs to deploy manpower more flexibly within the SCC to aid delivery of programmes.

b. Celebrations (e.g. birthdays)

12 **From 29 August 2022, SCCs may carry out celebrations involving external guests, subject to the following SMM:**

- a. If a common area is used for the celebration/ceremony, high touch point areas must be wiped down and disinfected after the event.

13 SCCs are advised to exercise good judgement and avoid overcrowding within SCC premises. The SCC may also wish to carry out the celebration after operational hours or at a larger venue.

Conclusion

14 Please share the above information with your staff. The latest revisions to the SMMs have been incorporated into Annex A. If you need further assistance, please contact your respective Student Care Officer (SCO). **School-based SCCs are to refer to the advisories issued by MOE and/or school administration for more details.**

15 Let us continue to work together as a community to keep SCCs safe for everyone and enable our children to learn and thrive.

Yours faithfully

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From 29 August 2022, SCCs are only required to adhere to the following SMMs. SCCs must ensure that the SMMs are clearly communicated to staff and implemented well and consistently. MSF will not hesitate to take enforcement actions for any breaches observed.

<p>COVID-Safe Access</p>	<p>a. Health protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ SCC staff and children who are COVID-19 cases and close contacts of COVID-19 cases shall adhere to prevailing national health protocols. Please refer to <u>Annex B</u> for details. ☑ SCCs shall conduct temperature screening and visual checks for all children, staff and visitors during arrival. Staff/children/visitors who are unwell, regardless of PCR/ART result, will not be allowed to enter the SCC unless they have recovered fully (i.e. no symptoms). ☑ Children who report feeling unwell must be immediately isolated in the sick bay, and their parents/ guardians notified to bring them home as soon as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be no more than one unwell child in each sick bay. If there is more than one unwell child in the sick bay, the children should be spaced 2 metres or more apart and be given masks to wear. - The sick bay must be sanitised and wiped down frequently, especially after every use.
	<p>b. Health declarations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ With the evolving COVID-19 situation, SCCs should monitor the health of staff and children closely. SCCs shall inform staff and parents to declare the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When an enrolled child or staff has tested positive for COVID-19 (either ART or PCR) or had recent close contact with an infected person (e.g. household member).

COVID-Safe Behaviour	<p>a. Practise high levels of personal hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ All staff and children shall maintain good personal hygiene practices by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covering their mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and to throw away the tissue immediately into a foot-pedal bin. - Washing their hands especially before eating or handling food, after toilet visits, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing. - Not sharing food/ drinks, eating utensils, toothbrushes or towels with others. - Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth. ☑ SCCs that resume showering of children are to ensure that the showers/contact areas are rinsed carefully after each use.
	<p>b. Ensure high levels of environmental hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ SCCs shall ensure high levels of environmental hygiene in line with the Environmental Sanitation Regime requirements.
	<p>c. Ensure good ventilation in SCC premises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ SCCs must ensure that their indoor premises are adequately ventilated in line with the guidelines issued by BCA, NEA and MOH (https://www1.bca.gov.sg/docs/default-source/docs-corp-news-and-publications/circulars/bca-nea-moh-guidance-note-on-improving-ventilation-and-indoor-air-quality-in-buildings-amid-the-covid19-situation.pdf).
COVID-Safe Classroom	<p>a. Celebration (e.g. birthdays)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ SCCs may conduct celebrations (e.g. birthdays), subject to the following SMM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If a common area is used for the celebration/ceremony, high touch point areas must be wiped down and disinfected after the event. <p><i>Note: SCCs are advised to exercise good judgement and avoid overcrowding within SCC premises. The SCC may also wish to carry out the celebration after operational hours or at a larger venue.</i></p>

Health protocols for SCC staff/ children

	If SCC staff/child ...	If SCC staff/child's household member(s) ...
Protocol 1: Is unwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child should see a doctor for medical advice. <p><u>For low-risk individuals with mild symptoms (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, etc)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary care doctor will administer ART. - If positive, refer to Protocol 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff/ parents are to inform SCC that staff/ child has tested positive for COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC • Notwithstanding this, staff/child is advised to exercise social responsibility and to closely monitor their health and self-test before leaving their house.
Protocol 2: Is well and tested positive, or condition assessed to be mild by a doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child to self-isolate at home for at least 72 hours¹. After 72 hours, he/she may return to SCC if second ART is negative and individual is well. • Those who continue to test ART positive to continue to self-isolate and self-test daily until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they obtain a negative ART result; OR - Day 7, 12pm (for vaccinated individuals and children below 12 years old) - No discharge/recovery memo required. • The staff/ parents are to inform SCC that staff/ child has tested positive for COVID-19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC. • Notwithstanding this, staff/child is advised to exercise social responsibility and to closely monitor their health and self-test daily before going out over the next 5 days.
Protocol 3: If identified as a close contact of an infected person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC. • Notwithstanding this, staff/child is advised to exercise social responsibility and to closely monitor their health and self-test daily before going out the next 5 days. • The staff/ parents are to inform SCC that staff/ child has had recent contact with an infected person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may continue to attend SCC. • SCCs are to be more vigilant in their health checks.

¹ MOH recommends the following individuals who test positive to see a doctor even if they are feeling well: a. Persons aged 70 years and above; b. Aged below 12 months; d. Had an organ transplant surgery in the past; e. Have any disease or are taking any medication that weakens the immune system; f. Have been diagnosed with cancer before; g. Are on dialysis; h. Are diagnosed with HIV or AIDS; i. Have a disease affecting your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, or brain that required hospital admission in the last 6 months; j. Are pregnant; k. Are less than 12 years old and have any congenital condition or growth disorder that affects the heart, lungs or brain; or l. Are less than 12 years old and have Diabetes Mellitus or hypertension.

	If SCC staff/child ...	If SCC staff/child's household member(s) ...
Is unwell and tests negative for COVID-19 <i>(with fever and/ or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC only when fully recovered (i.e. no longer displaying symptoms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCs are to be more vigilant in their health checks.