



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR NO. 09 OF 2020

04 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**), and 03 March 2020 (**ANNEX C**), the MPA will extend the precautionary measures to include the following:
 - a. All arriving vessels with crew/passengers with recent travel history to mainland China, Iran, northern Italy¹ or the Republic of Korea in the past 14 days; and
 - b. All arriving vessels that have called at ports in mainland China, Iran, northern Italy² or the Republic of Korea in the past 14 days.
3. Ships can continue to berth at terminals to carry out operations.

¹ Refers to the 8 administrative regions in northern Italy: Aosta Valley, Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol.

² Refers to the ports located in the 8 administrative regions in northern Italy: Marina di Carrara, La Spezia, Genoa, Savona, Ravenna, Porto Levante, Chioggia, Venice, Porto Nogaro, Monfalcone and Trieste

Advice for shipping community

4. MPA advises the shipping community to adhere closely to the health advisory in **ANNEX D**. The National Environment Agency's (NEA) Port Health requires the following vessels to submit the Maritime Declaration of Health Form:

- a. All arriving passenger ships (with the exception of ferries operated by MPA-licenced regional ferry service operators); or
- b. All arriving vessels with crew/passengers with recent travel history to mainland China, Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea in the past 14 days; or
- c. All arriving vessels that have called at ports in mainland China, Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea in the past 14 days.

5. 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.

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

Advice for Singapore-Registered Vessels

7. 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 F**.

Industry-led Initiatives

8. Temperature Screening at Cruise and Ferry Terminals. Since 08 February 2020, 2359hrs, cruise and 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.

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

Measures by Port Terminal Operators

10. 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.

11. This circular supersedes Port Marine Circular No. 07 of 2020.

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

EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SINGAPORE**Latest developments**

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.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
31 JANUARY 2020

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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.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

Health Advisory

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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) 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

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;
- 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;
 - 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
5. Any queries regarding this Annex should be directed to MPA Shipping (Email: shipping@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6251).