Ref: OSHE 018/20

CIRCULAR 15

25 March 2020

All Staff and Students

COVID-19: INCREASED SAFE DISTANCING MEASURES FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

Dear Colleagues and Students

1.   With the recent spike in imported COVID-19 cases, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced on Tuesday, 24 March 2020, that tighter safe distancing measures will be implemented to minimise the risk of further local transmission.

2.   MOH has advised Singaporeans to avoid holding and participating in social events and gatherings involving more than 10 persons at any one time. However, Institutes of Higher Learning such as NUS may continue with classes, workplace meetings and events involving more than 10 persons.

3.   To further enhance precautionary measures on our campuses, NUS will limit the participation of **physical gatherings, namely, face-to-face classes, Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), workplace meetings, and NUS events to not more than 25 persons, with effect from Monday, 30 March 2020:**

    a.   Face-to-face classes with more than 25 students must be changed to e-learning sessions.

    b.   CCAs:
       i.   All CCA activities are to be capped at 25 participants;
      ii.   No external participants are to be involved - this would also apply to all community service projects; and
     iii.   The suspension of all CCAs and related events involving close physical contact is to continue.

    c.   Workplace measures: Existing measures pertaining to work arrangements will continue to apply. If in-person meetings are needed, the following control measures are to be followed:
       i.   From Monday, 30 March 2020, meeting organisers are to use the Attendance Recording System (ARS). The ARS tracks temperature declaration compliance, and compliance of precautionary measures i.e. Stay-Home Notice, Leave of Absence (LOA) or social distancing. Meeting participants with NUSNET IDs will need to record their attendance at every meeting by scanning a QR code;
      ii.   A photograph of the seating arrangement of meeting participants is to be taken at every meeting and uploaded to the ARS. This is to enable contact tracing, if the need arises;
     iii.   Meeting organisers and participants who feel unwell or do not declare their temperature must not attend the meeting;

       iv.   Meeting organisers and participants should observe physical distancing of at least 2 metres apart; and

       v.   Meeting organisers should keep meetings short, and use tele-conferencing whenever possible.

    d.   NUS organisers are to defer, cancel or go virtual for events involving more than 25 persons.

4.   We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation continues to evolve rapidly, our top priority remains the health, safety, and wellbeing of our community. Under these challenging circumstances, the University remains open and operational with appropriate measures to protect the health of the community. We will continue to keep you informed of additional measures.

5.   We ask that you continue to be socially responsible and be vigilant in practising good personal hygiene, monitor your temperature twice daily, and take all necessary precautions for the health and wellbeing of our colleagues, students, friends and families.

6.   Please be reminded that not complying with any of the control measures implemented by NUS, such as breaching of Stay-Home Notice and Leave of Absence, is considered an offence and disciplinary action will be taken against staff and students.

7.   If you have further questions, please email covid-19@nus.edu.sg or contact the management office of your department. Thank you.

Dr Peck Thian Guan
Director
Office of Safety, Health and Environment

Stay updated:
- NUS circulars, FAQs, emergency contact numbers, as well as useful links on the COVID-19 situation are available at emergency.nus.edu.sg.
- The latest NUS-related news, research and commentaries on COVID-19 are available here.
- Updates from the Dean of Students can be seen here.
- Please refer to the Ministry of Health for the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for travel advisories.