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CIRCULAR 10

4 March 2020

All Staff and Students

COVID-19: UPDATED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS RETURNING FROM IRAN, ITALY AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Dear Colleagues and Students

We would like to draw your attention to the latest precautionary measures by NUS on the COVID-19 situation:

NEW UPDATES

1. In the [latest announcement](#) on travel restrictions by the Ministry of Health (MOH), with effect from 4 March 2020, 2359 hours, all visitors who had been to **Iran, northern Italy, or the Republic of Korea within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into, or transit through, Singapore.**
2. Singapore citizens, permanent residents and long-term pass holders, including those holding work passes, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass and Long-term Visit Pass, with a travel history to these places within the last 14 days will be issued with a **Stay-Home Notice.**
3. With immediate effect, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority will suspend the issuance of all forms of new visas to those with Iranian passports. 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.
4. 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. 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. More information on the **precautionary testing for symptomatic travellers** is available [here](#).
5. You are advised to **defer non-essential travel to Iran, Italy, the Republic of Korea and Japan.**
6. The University has **suspended all student exchange to Italy with effect from 2 March 2020.** Arrangements are being made for students who are currently in Italy to return to Singapore as soon as possible. This was announced in a circular from the Office of Senior Deputy President and Provost on 2 March 2020.

UPDATED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

In view of this latest announcement by MOH, the University has amended its precautionary measures for staff and students returning from Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea.

a. SHNs for those returning from Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea

If you are returning from **Iran, northern Italy or the Republic of Korea**, you will be issued with a Stay-Home Notice (SHN) with effect from 4 March 2020, 2359 hours. Please refer to [Circular 8](#) for more information on the SHN.

b. Seven-day social distancing for those returning from the rest of Italy

If you are returning from the **rest of Italy**, you are required to **work from home for 7 days (for staff); or do e-learning for 7 days (for students), from the day of your return**.

Social distancing for students

If you are staying at home, please do not come to campus. If you are staying on campus, please stay in your hostel room and avoid socialising with others (you may choose to go home during this period). Do e-learning for all your modules for 7 days, from the date of your return. If you require assistance regarding modules or academic matters, please inform your course instructors.

If you show any symptoms of fever, cough, sore throat, running nose, breathlessness, etc., please wear a mask and seek medical attention immediately.

The new precautionary measures for all staff and students returning from COVID-19 affected countries are summarised below:

	Quarantine Order (Authorities)	Stay Home Notice (Authorities & NUS)	7-day Social Distancing (NUS)
Hubei province	Yes		
Mainland China (outside of Hubei)		Yes	
Iran <small>NEW</small>		Yes	
Republic of Korea <small>NEW</small>		Yes	
Northern Italy <small>NEW</small>		Yes	
Rest of Italy			Yes

As the COVID-19 situation overseas is evolving rapidly, you are strongly advised to stay alert to the latest COVID-19 news in the countries you are visiting, as well as related advisories from the [Ministry of Health](#) and the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs \(MFA\)](#). Singaporeans should also [e-register](#) their overseas travel with MFA.

It is important that you continue to maintain good personal hygiene and take the necessary precautions to ensure your own health and wellbeing as well as in consideration of our community.

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](#).
- Updates from the Dean of Students can be seen [here](#).
- The latest NUS-related news, research and commentaries on the novel coronavirus are available [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.