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Dear Students,

ADVISORY FOR THE COMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Following the Multi-Ministry Taskforce's decision to tighten the measures and restrictions under Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) till 13 June 2021, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has shifted all primary and secondary schools, junior colleges and centralised institute to Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) till end of the term on 28 May 2021. The Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would like to remind you of the dire consequences of committing crime and drug/inhalant abuse, as well as to take measures to avoid being victims of crime.

Drug and Inhalant Abuse Situation

2 In 2020, forty one percent (1,232) of all drug abusers arrested were young abusers below the age of 30. Out of these 1,232 young abusers, fifty-eight percent (713) of them were new abusers. **You should be mindful that the possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.**

3 **Stay away from drug and inhalant abuse.** Abusing drugs and inhalants is dangerous as they are harmful and addictive, and can cause permanent damage to your health and body. Do not allow yourself to be pressured into trying drugs. Walk away if anyone tries to offer you drugs. Drugs do not solve your problems. On the contrary, they will only add onto your troubles. There are healthy and beneficial ways to cope with stress. Choose a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

4 **Do not get involved in online drug activities.** CNB monitors online drug activities, and has taken action against those who order drugs / drugs paraphernalia online, or have drugs delivered by post or courier. CNB will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in illegal drug activities.

5 **Beware of drugs that may be disguised as food.** These products are made to entice more people into taking drugs. They are illegal in Singapore and it is also against the law to consume

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them. Drugs are dangerous and harmful. Do not consume anything unknown to you or offered to you by strangers. When in doubt, approach your teachers or parents.

Stay away from Crime

6 The Police would like to urge you to take the Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) measures and restrictions seriously. You are strongly encouraged to stay home and to limit social interaction to groups of no more than 2. Please adhere to safe distancing measures in public places and continue to wear masks when leaving home. Students are also reminded to cooperate with, and comply with the instructions of enforcement officers (EOs), and SG Clean and Safe Distancing Ambassadors. The Police will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse of them.

7 **Always pay for your items from places such as shopping malls, supermarkets, and retail stores.** Shop theft is an offence that can result in criminal records.

8 **Do not attempt to cheat others on online platforms.** It is against the law to commit cheating offences, be it through online platforms, or misusing others' bank or identification cards. In the past year, more students have been apprehended for such offences. Cheating carries a jail term and/or a fine.

9 **Remember to steer clear from disputes or confrontations, amongst your friends, classmates, and strangers.** If you do need to go out during this period, always be mindful to steer clear from conflicts and do not carry any sharp or dangerous weapons. Disputes and heated arguments can often lead to fights or assaults that may result in severe injuries for both parties. Offenders liable for serious offences such as affray and unlawful assembly can be punished with a jail term, hefty fine, or even caning. In addition, joining a gang is a crime and members of any unlawful societies can be arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

10 **Always be cautious with part-time jobs offered to you, especially those promising quick and easy money.** Students have been recruited for unlicensed moneylending activities through job advertisements online (e.g. Facebook, Carousell, Gumtree). Regardless of the role performed, whether it be being a runner or harasser, opening a bank account, distributing pamphlets or acting as look-outs, these are illegal activities that are against the law and punishable with a hefty fine, jail term and even caning.

Preventing yourself from becoming a Victim of Crime

11 **Always take care of your personal belongings, stay alert to your surroundings, and avoid uncomfortable situations with strangers.** Where possible, arrange for an adult family member or trusted friend to escort you home when returning alone late at night. If you suspect that

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you are being followed, remain calm and proceed to a crowded area or call the Police for assistance.

12 **Be careful when shopping online.** Carousell and Facebook are predominant platforms used for online purchase scams. Look out for deals that are way below market-priced disguised as limited-time-only or flash deals, such as gadgets or items that are priced much lower than usual. Many people have been cheated after falling for deals that are too good to be true, usually on online platforms. Scammers would induce victims to make money transfers first, after which goods will not be received. Popular items include electronic gadgets such as game consoles, handphones and graphic cards. In some cases, scammers even cheated victims into making multiple payments on false claims of customs/processing fees, securing better deals with bulk purchases, etc. Reduce your risks by purchasing only from authorised sellers, and use the platform's secure payment option.

13 **Be very careful of who you talk to online.** Exercise caution when corresponding with anyone online. Scammers may impersonate as your friend on social networking sites by hacking their account or creating a fake account using your friend's profile picture and details. Be wary especially towards people who ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. Information such as phone numbers, PIN numbers and one-time passwords (OTPs), can be used to make online purchases without your consent. If you are meeting an online friend in person for the first time, always make sure that you have a trusted friend or family member around. Do not allow yourself to be coerced into uncomfortable or compromising situations. Although scammers may provide a copy of an Identification Card or Driver's license to gain your trust, it may not necessarily belong to the person that you are communicating with online. You may check the validity of the NRIC on ICA's iEnquiry portal at: <https://eservices.ica.gov.sg/ipienquiry/web/ichack/landing>.

Resources on Crime Prevention and Staying Drug-Free

14 The following provides more information on crime prevention and staying drug-free:

- Sign up for the Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme to help advocate for a drug-free Singapore. For more information, follow us on CNB's social media handles @CNB.DrugFreeSG (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) or contact us at: cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg. You can also visit the CNB's website www.cnb.gov.sg for more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse.
- Please call the CNB hotline at 1800-325-6666 to report any cases of suspected drug and inhalant abuse.

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- For anyone who wishes to seek help with addiction-related matters, please call the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at 6732 6837.
- For more information on crime prevention, visit the SPF's website at www.spf.gov.sg, SPF Facebook or NCPC's website at www.ncpc.org.sg. Please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000, or submit the information online at www.police.gov.sg/iwitness to report matters on gangs, unlicensed money lending or crimes. Please dial '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you are aware of any gang activities or anyone who wants to leave a gang, please advise him/her to seek assistance from the Secret Societies Branch at 6435 0000. You can also call the NCPC's X Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9-24-5664 (1800-X-AH-LONG) to report unlicensed money lending matters.
- For more information on scams, visit www.scamalert.sg. You may also call the Anti-Scam Helpline at 1800-722-6688 to seek scam-related advice. Join the 'let's fight scams' campaign at www.scamalert.sg/fight by signing up as an advocate to receive up-to-date messages and share them with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim of scam.

15 Thank you and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



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