

Social + Welfare

/// COVID-19

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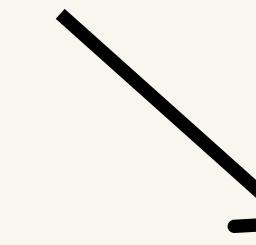
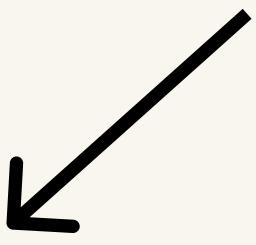
A nighttime satellite view of Earth from space, showing city lights and auroras.

COVID-19

**Social +
Welfare**

Physical

Mental



Migrant Workers



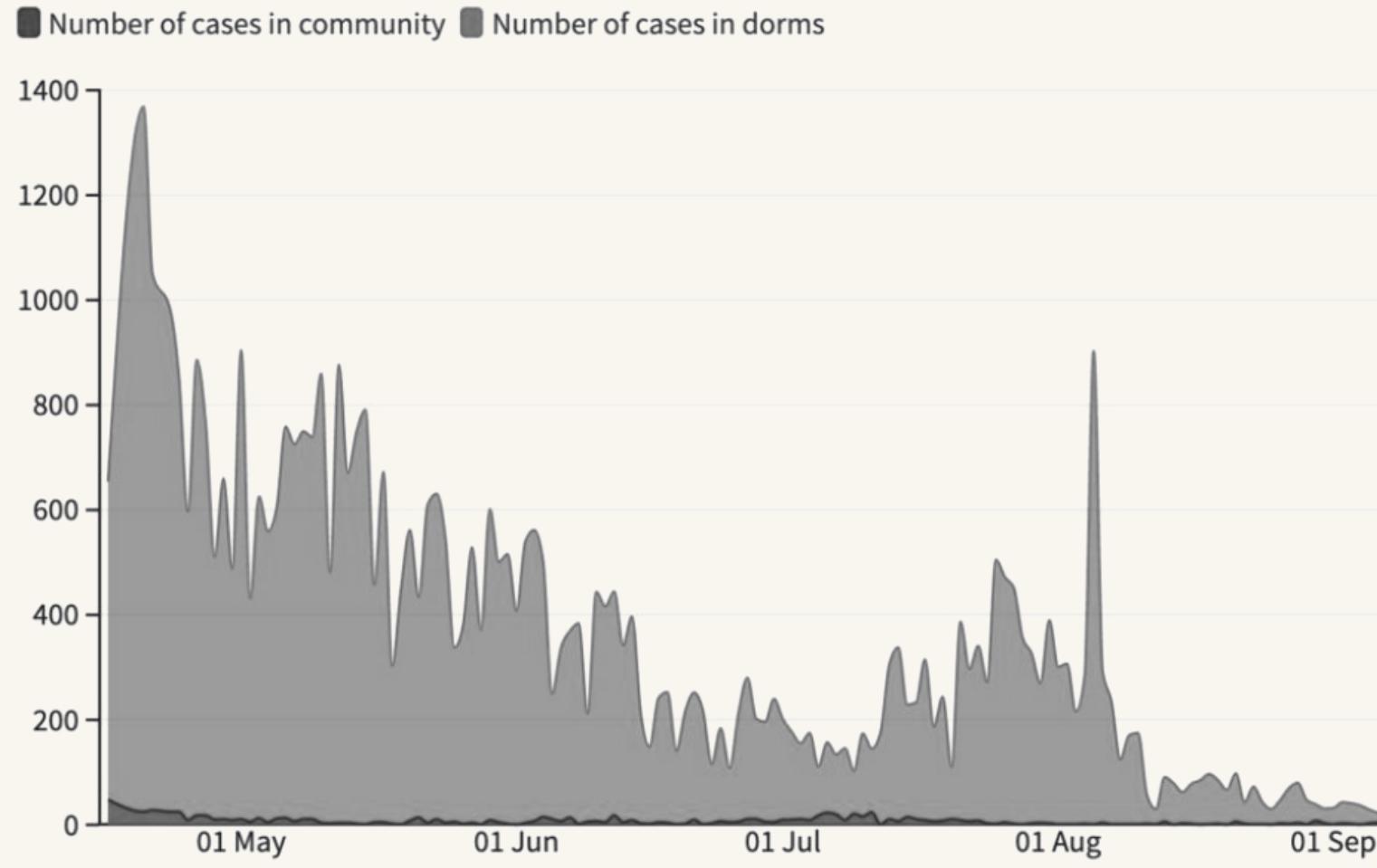


Lockdown

Migrant Workers

Under strict lockdown
since 7 April 2020

Reported cases of coronavirus in community and dorms



Source: Singapore government, data to 7 Sep

BBC

Singapore migrant workers are still living in Covid lockdown

By Nick Marsh
Singapore

© 24 September

Coronavirus pandemic



GETTY IMAGES | Thousands of migrant workers live in shared dormitories all over the country

In 2020 Singapore was hit by a series of coronavirus outbreaks, centred around dormitories where thousands of migrant workers live. Cases have dropped significantly, but most of the men are still not permitted to leave except to go to work. It is one of the longest periods of Covid confinement faced by anyone anywhere in the world.

"This is prison life. This is a captive's life."

Threat perception

- Humans possesses a set of **defensive mechanisms**
- Change their behaviours when they feel capable to deal with the threat
- Defensive reactions when they feel **helpless**
- Being threaten with disease, associated with higher levels of ethnocentrism
- Greater intolerance and punitive attitudes towards out-groups



Poor Living Conditions

	Current practices	Government Guidelines
Number of beds per room	Up to 20	12 to 16
Toilets, basin & showers	30 to 1	15 to 1

// OCT 2021



Food supplied by Sembcorp (Jalan Tukang dormitory) to migrant workers

Pre Covid-19 lockdown

Able to cook and eat out

Covid-19 lockdown

Provided with food that were of poor standards and hygiene.



**Stress &
Depression**

why?

fear of losing their job
discrimination of migrant workers
exposed to misinformation
confinement to their dormitories
fear of health

Migrant workers under lockdown in S'pore had higher symptoms of depression and stress: Yale-NUS study



The study involved surveys of 1,011 migrant workers employed in manual labour positions in Singapore between June and October 2020. PHOTO: ST FILE

	Stress	Symptoms of depression	Anxiety
Confined to dorms	8	6	—
Minimal restrictions	2	2	—

Fearful for health	8	6	4
Not fearful for health	2	2	0

Study involved of **1,011 migrant workers** employed in manual labour positions in Singapore between June and October 2020 by Yale-NUS



**SG Government Policies that
addresses these issues**

Covid-19: Singapore to start vaccinating migrant workers



**98%
Vaccinated**

A health worker prepares a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for a senior citizen at the Senja-Cashew Community Centre Vaccination Centre, operated by Thomson Medical, in Singapore, on Monday, March 8, 2021. Singapore is introducing a program called [#Connect@Changi](#) that will allow people to enter the island for business and official purposes without having to quarantine, provided they stay in a [bubble-like facility](#) near Changi Airport for the duration of their visit. Photographer: Wei Leng Tay/Bloomberg (Bloomberg)

7 Quick Build Dorms completed, 8 more to be ready by 2021, says Desmond Lee



4 of 4 Quick Build Dorms embody new living standards such as having no more than 10 beds per room. ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN

single beds spaced at least 1m apart and an ensuite bathroom

larger communal spaces



Westlite Kranji Way is a 1,300-bed Quick-Build Dormitory developed by JTC and managed by Westlite Accommodation. (Photo: Centurion Corporation Limited)

Employers must pay foreign workers isolated in dormitories even if work passes are cancelled: MOM



Foreign workers are seen with masks at Tuas View Dormitory on May 6, 2020. Tuas View Dormitory was gazetted as an isolation area to curb the spread of COVID-19. (Photo: Jeremy Long)



Rachel Phua

@RachelPhuaCNA

08 May 2020 11:14PM
(Updated: 08 May 2020 11:20PM)



P&G Donates 300,000 Care Packs to Migrant Workers totalling S\$5m as part of COVID-19 Relief Efforts



From L to R: (Ms. Low Yen Ling, Mayor of South West District, Ms. Josephine Teo, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Home Affairs, together with Mr. Magesvaran Suranjan, President of P&G AMA, packing the care packs which will be donated to migrant workers in Singapore)

Migrant workers in factory-converted dormitories to get care packs with masks, hand sanitiser, soap bars



NTUC Secretary-General Ng Chee Meng helped to distribute the first batch of care packs on April 18, 2020. ST PHOTO: TIMOTHY DAVID

16. The residents' other needs are also being provided for:

- Residents can purchase items from the dormitory mini-marts through online orders and delivery of goods.
- More than 410,000 care packs have been distributed, containing daily essentials such as thermometers, hand sanitisers and masks.
- WIFI access has also been enabled across the dormitories and more than 200,000 data SIM cards have been distributed to the workers.
- More than 300 Tamil and Hindi movies channels are available for free viewing.



HealthServe is a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing healing and hope to migrant workers.

হেলথসার্ভ প্রবাসী শ্রমিকদের শুশ্রা ও আশা প্রদানে নিবেদিত একটি অলাভজনক প্রতিষ্ঠান।



"HealthServe has made me feel more secure about being in a foreign country and reminded me not to be afraid or lonely in case I need medical or emotional support."

Rona, a shipyard worker from Bangladesh

"HealthServe saved my life."

Jiang, a migrant worker from Bangladesh

2020
in review

5,850+

medical and dental consultations

5,880+

migrant workers supported through our mental health services

820+

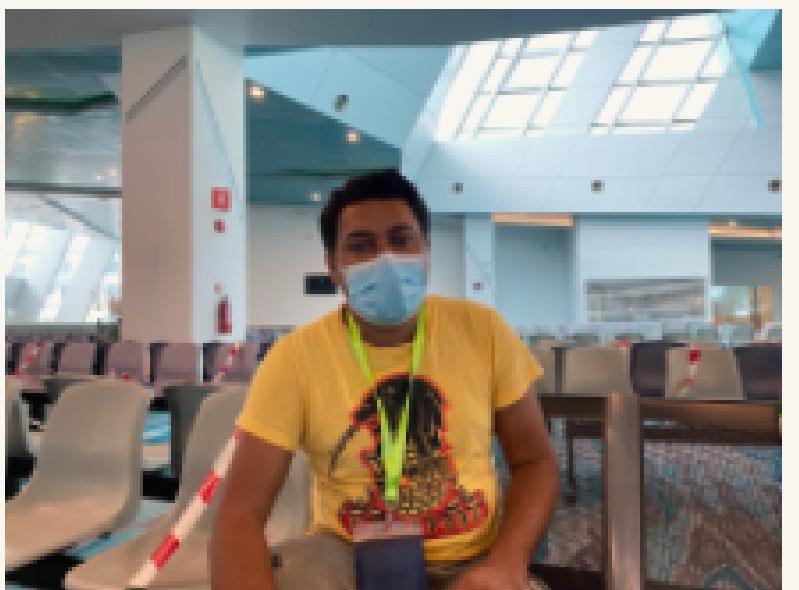
migrant workers supported through our casework services

17,780+

free meals provided

\$617,000+

in social services aid disbursed



subsidised medical and dental services

tele-counselling session

ASSURANCE, CARE AND ENGAGEMENT (ACE) GROUP

- Provide Assurance to migrant workers
- Deploy Forward Assurance and Support Teams (FASTs)
- Implement 12 On-site Medical Centres to continue provide access to medical services
- Collaborate with My Brother SG to produce and distribute booklets on mental health to migrant workers

The screenshot shows a news article from the Ministry of Manpower's website. The header includes the ministry's logo, a 'MENU' button, a breadcrumb navigation path ('Home > ... > 2020 >'), and search and 'About us' links. The main title of the article is 'New MOM division to support migrant workers and dormitory operations'. Below the title, the date '22 August 2020' and category 'Foreign manpower' are listed. The article contains two numbered points: 1. Describes the formation of the Inter-agency Taskforce (ITF) in April 2020 to support migrant workers and dormitory operators against COVID-19. 2. States that with dormitories cleared of COVID-19, the ITF will hand over its operations to a new division, the Assurance, Care and Engagement (ACE) Group, starting in August 2020.

New MOM division to support migrant workers and dormitory operations

22 August 2020 | Foreign manpower

1. The Inter-agency Taskforce ([ITF](#)) comprising officers seconded from the Ministry of Manpower ([MOM](#)), Singapore Armed Forces, The Home Team, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Communications and Information and other agencies was formed in early April 2020 to provide support to migrant workers and dormitory operators in the fight against [COVID-19](#).
2. With all dormitories declared cleared of COVID-19, the ITF will be handing over its operations to a new MOM division, the Assurance, Care and Engagement (ACE) Group. The handover will be carried out in phases from August 2020 to September 2020 to ensure a smooth transition.

Uncovering our migrant voices

virtual experiential programme

MWs share their stories, Covid experience and future dreams

Promote understanding and **appreciation** of MWs

120-150 youths | 8 Migrant Workers | 4 FAST officers

How do you define a **good** policy?

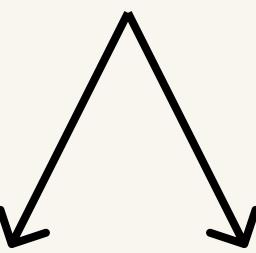
LONG TERM v SHORT TERM

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Westlite Kranji Way is a 1,300-bed Quick-Build Dormitory developed by JTC and managed by Westlite Accommodation. (Photo: Centurion Corporation Limited)

Discrimination

Nine medical centres for migrant workers to be set up

July 16th, 2021 | News, Our Stand



Five-minute video from the Straits Times about the value of the new proposal

At the end of June 2021, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) put out a tender for interested parties to operate nine proposed medical centres to serve migrant workers, particularly those housed in dormitories. Three of these centres will be co-located within large dorms while six others will serve migrant workers in the vicinity.

Marginalised from local healthcare system

Covid-19: GP clinics may have to cut hours, use fewer doctors under MOH guidelines, say some doctors

By LENA LOKE, MANDY LEE

Published MARCH 05, 2020

Updated JULY 17, 2020

66 SHARES 



Some resident doctors at GP clinics say that they understand the rationale for the new Ministry of Health guidelines while others say that the rules are too restrictive.



The number of doctors who volunteer at HealthServe fell sharply since the virus outbreak — from **120 to just 6.**

Migrant Workers take the hit

S'pore starts phase 2 of reopening

Most activities can resume from June 19 when phase 2 of Singapore's Covid-19 reopening starts, with safe distancing rules in place:

What will be allowed



DINE-IN

- F&B dine-in can resume, but each table can sit only up to 5 people
- Safe distancing of at least 1m



SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- Gatherings of up to 5 people allowed
- Within the home, each household may receive up to 5 visitors



RETAIL OUTLETS

- Retail outlets can reopen. Malls and large outlets must prevent crowds or long queues



SCHOOLS

- Students to return to school daily from June 29



SPORTS FACILITIES & WELLNESS

- Sports, parks and other public facilities, such as gyms, to reopen. Same for facilities in condos and clubs
- Personal wellness services, such as spas, can resume



HEALTHCARE

- Services, including health screening and aesthetic procedures, can resume
- Visits allowed at nursing homes and elderly residential facilities



HOME-BASED SERVICES

- Tuition and enrichment lessons can resume, except for singing or voice training classes.

Eligible foreign workers from dorms allowed to visit recreation centres at staggered times



1 of 8 These centres have food and beverage outlets, mini-marts and communal facilities. ST PHOTO: ARIFFIN JAMAR



Michelle Ng

UPDATED OCT 29, 2020, 7:20 AM ▾

f t ...

SINGAPORE - Eligible foreign workers staying in dormitories will be allowed to visit recreation centres on their rest days at staggered times from Saturday (Oct 31) to buy necessities, get a haircut and remit money home.

Covid-19: Migrant workers to be allowed back into community once a month in pilot scheme in early 2021



By JANICE LIM

Published DECEMBER 14, 2020

Updated MARCH 24, 2021

68 SHARES



Foreign workers living in dormitories will still be subjected to routine testing for Covid-19 and they still have to wear their contact-tracing devices called BluePass tokens.

“

this was to protect the health of our migrant workers, especially as more cases of COVID-19 were picked up

Ministry of Manpower
July '21

,

Finally in September 2021...

Up to 500 vaccinated migrant workers in S'pore allowed into community each week as part of pilot programme



More than nine in 10 migrant workers living in dorms are fully vaccinated. PHOTO: ST FILE

November 2021

Up to 21,000 migrant workers per week allowed to visit public places from Dec 3



Vaccinated migrant workers will also be allowed daily visits to recreation centres here, up from thrice a week currently. PHOTO: ST FILE

An aerial photograph of the Dubai Marina skyline during sunset. The sky is filled with warm, orange and pink hues. In the foreground, the turquoise waters of the marina are visible, dotted with small boats and yachts. The city's iconic skyscrapers, including the Burj Khalifa and the Marina Bay Sands, rise prominently against the horizon. The overall scene is a vibrant representation of modern urban architecture and luxury.

The UAE



The good

- Testing is free for migrants
- Covid-19 treatment is also paid for

The bad

- Poor Living Conditions
- Reports of workers going without food and water.
- Threats of deportations by employers
- Problems with healthcare and sick pay.

Middle East & Africa

Apr 25th 2020 edition ›

Covid in the camps

Migrant workers in cramped Gulf dorms fear infection

Governments have been slow to help them



Eyevine

Apr 23rd 2020
BEIRUT

Editor's note: The Economist is making some of its most important coverage of the covid-19 pandemic freely available to readers of The Economist Today, our daily newsletter. To receive it, register [here](#). For our coronavirus tracker and more coverage, see our [hub](#)

The bad

- unpaid wages - unscrupulous employers and agents realize this is an opportunity to allow workers to go home
- lack of governmental support

'I am starving': the migrant workers abandoned by Dubai employers

With no salary or money to pay for flights home, many are trapped in desperate situations in crowded labour camps



📷 The double blow of Covid and an oil price crash has led to hundreds of thousands of job losses in the UAE. Photograph: Jon Gambrell/AP

Singapore

Dubai (UAE)

Unjust treatment of citizens and migrant workers

Singapore	Dubai (UAE)
<p>Governments agenda is to protect the interests of their people first</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• opportunity cost and sacrifice of certain communities to achieve said goals• cost cutting• protect country's image	

POLICY

THE FAIR ACT

Fair

**Fair
Access to**

**Fair
Access to
Interactions &**

**Fair
Access to
Interactions &
Resources**

THE FAIR ACT

The Fair Act aims to advance the ideals of equality and justice in the treatment of migrant workers in the pandemic.

THE FAIR ACT

1	<p>Shared medical and support services with citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No division in healthcare (All to have access to the same healthcare system)• Greater access to mental/health care/ professionals• Peer support (Improve social welfare)
2	<p>Right for Freedom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow for cross mingling with other dormitories• Allow them to arrange to meet with friends in the Recreational Centres• Staggered rest days to reduce clustering in public spaces

THE FAIR ACT

3	<p>Labour laws are strictly enforced and adhered to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UN to send inter-auditors to countries to ensure that labour laws are enforced, and not legislated for the sake of it• Labour Ministry also thoroughly inspects on dormitories and employers and prosecute if there is breach
4	<p>Encouragement Measures rather than legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waived delivery for migrant workers when they purchase goods online, to encourage online shopping, so there wouldn't be a reason to go out• Pimp out RCs, to increase its appeal. Better deals in RCs, and more food and facilities can be added• Transport can also be offered to several locations in SG, so as to encourage MWs to meet their friends at these locations, so as to simplify contact tracing and prevent outbreaks.

A grayscale photograph of a medical professional, likely a doctor or nurse, in a clinical environment. The individual is wearing a white lab coat over a dark shirt and a stethoscope hangs around their neck. They are looking slightly to the side with a neutral expression.

QNA