

**ADVISORY ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PNEUMONIA**  
**(FOR MICE)**

**22 JAN 2020**

Singapore remains a safe travel destination and we are taking concrete measures to strengthen our defences.

Travellers who have arrived in Singapore from China should monitor their health closely for 2 weeks upon entering Singapore and seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell, and also inform their doctor of their travel history. If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of the visit.

Travellers should adopt the following precautions at all times:

- Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
- Avoid crowded places and 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 runny nose;
- 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.

Please refer to Ministry of Health (MOH) (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>) for updates on the local situation regarding the pneumonia cluster in Wuhan. Please see the FAQs in the Annex below for more information for tourism-related sectors.

## **ANNEX**

### **Possible questions from Staff**

- 1. What steps are being taken to allay concerns of tourists here as well as those who are considering cancelling their trips here?**
- 2. How are inbound tourists being informed (through the airport and cruise terminals) of the Wuhan Virus situation and measures taken?**

STB continues to work closely with the tourism sector and our international network of offices to ensure that tourists who are currently in Singapore and those who are planning to visit Singapore, are updated on the latest developments on the Wuhan Virus situation, including that Singapore remains a safe travel destination as there have been no cases linked to the Wuhan pneumonia cluster. Our international network of offices will also address any concerns they might have regarding their travel plans. Health Advisory Notices are issued to all travellers arriving at Changi Airport from China, and health advisory posters are distributed at land and sea checkpoints. Visitors can also refer to Ministry of Health's (MOH) website for more information on the local situation regarding the pneumonia cluster in Wuhan (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>).

- 3. I am going back to China for Chinese New Year. What should I do?**

You may refer to the attached latest advisory by Ministry of Health (MOH) for precautionary measures that need to be taken. For more information on the local situation regarding the pneumonia cluster in Wuhan please visit (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>).

### **Possible questions from Visitors**

- 4. Is Singapore safe? Is there anything I should/should not do?**

Singapore remains a safe travel destination, but we are monitoring the situation closely. To date, there have been no cases linked to the Wuhan pneumonia cluster.

Travellers are advised to remain vigilant, adopt good personal hygiene practices and monitor their health closely. Travellers are also advised to seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell, and to also inform their doctors of their travel history.

Precautionary measures have been put in place to reduce the risk of importation of the virus to Singapore. Temperature screening has been implemented at Changi Airport for inbound travellers arriving on all flights from China, and suspect cases will be referred to hospitals for further assessment and isolated as a precautionary measure.

Health Advisory Notices are also issued to all travellers arriving at Changi Airport from China, and health advisory posters are distributed at land and sea checkpoints. All medical practitioners have also been alerted to be vigilant to look out for suspect cases and maintain strict infection control and prevention measures.

You may refer to the media statements on the Ministry of Health's (MOH) website for more information on the local situation regarding the pneumonia cluster in Wuhan (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>).

**5. If I am affected by the Wuhan Virus will I be compensated for my visit to Singapore?**

Tourists are advised to check with their respective travel insurance providers for information on coverage and compensation.

**6. We heard there were multiple suspect cases. How many people have been affected by the Wuhan Virus in Singapore?**

You may refer to Ministry of Health's (MOH) website for latest updates on the suspect cases in Singapore. (<https://www.moh.gov.sg>).

## **ADVISORY FROM MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)**

### **ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PNEUMONIA IN CHINA**

22ND JANUARY 2020

1. In view of the novel coronavirus situation in Wuhan and other parts of China, the Ministry of Health (MOH) advises travellers to avoid non-essential travel to Wuhan. MOH also reminds the public to continue to exercise caution and attention to personal hygiene when travelling to the rest of China.
2. Travellers should adopt the following precautions at all times:
  - Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds, and consumption of raw and undercooked meats;
  - Avoid crowded places and 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 runny nose;
  - 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.
3. All travellers should monitor their health closely for 2 weeks upon return to Singapore and seek medical attention promptly if they feel unwell, and also inform their doctor of their travel history. If they have a fever or respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose), they should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of the visit.
4. Given the evolving situation and ongoing investigations in China, Singapore residents who need to travel to the affected areas are advised to regularly check MOH's website ([www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)) for updates. Travellers to China are also advised to stay vigilant, monitor developments and heed the advice of the local Chinese authorities while in China.
5. MOH has put in place precautionary measures to reduce the risk of importation of the virus to Singapore. The definition of suspect cases from 22 January 2020 include persons with:
  - (i) pneumonia and travel history to China within 14 days before onset of symptoms; or
  - (ii) acute respiratory infection who had been to any hospital in China, within 14 days before onset of symptoms.

These cases will be isolated in hospital as a precautionary measure to prevent transmission.

6. From 22 January 2020, temperature screening at Changi Airport has also been expanded to all inbound travellers on flights arriving from China, and suspect cases meeting the expanded definition above will be referred to hospitals for further assessment. Health Advisory Notices are issued to all travellers arriving at Changi Airport from China, and health advisory posters are displayed at land and sea checkpoints.
7. MOH has also reminded doctors and healthcare workers to be vigilant, and maintain strict infection control and prevention measures.
8. To date, there have been no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus reported in Singapore. However, given the high volume of international travel to Singapore, we expect to see more suspect cases, and imported cases. Once a case is confirmed, contact tracing will be initiated, and we will implement strict isolation, quarantine, and infection control and prevention measures to prevent further transmission.