

COVID-19 ADVISORY FOR VISITORS TO MWS CENTRES

As at 6 October 2021

To slow down community transmissions of COVID-19 and minimise the strain on our healthcare capacity, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce has announced tighter community safe management measures for this stabilisation period, effective from **27 September to 24 October 2021**.

Specifically, visitations to our Nursing Homes will be suspended till 24 October 2021. Visitations to our Welfare Home will be suspended till further notice.

Caregivers and next-of-kin may contact us to connect with your loved ones over the telephone or video calls. Face-to-face visits will be allowed only on a compassionate basis (e.g., for critically ill residents) with the necessary safe management measures in place.

We seek your cooperation and understanding as we do our part to slow down the spread of COVID-19 among the vulnerable population.

MWS continues to observe strict visitation guidelines to safeguard the well-being of our staff and beneficiaries.

Swabbing of Visitors

In line with the government's visitor management guidelines, Visitors at some of our Centres will be tested for COVID-19 using the Antigen Rapid Tests (ARTs).*

Only Visitors with a negative test result may enter our Centre (subject to other prevailing measures).

In some MWS Centres, Visitors may need to self-administer the ART, under supervision. As the entire process up till the time result is known, may take approximately 30 mins, Visitors are advised to arrive 30 mins before their scheduled visit for ART testing.

The ART result has a validity of 24 hours, so Visitors may re-enter the MWS Centre if the visit occurs within 24 hours of a negative test result.

MWS may ask the Visitor to take another ART if we are unable to reliably confirm that the visitor has a valid negative test result.

Please contact the individual MWS Centre for Visiting Hours before making a trip.

**Note: Visitors with the following medical conditions should not undergo ART testing and will not be able to visit our Centre during the affected period.*

- *Nosebleed (in the past 24 hours)*
- *Facial surgery (in the last 8 weeks)*
- *Nasal surgery (in the last 4 weeks)*

Please note that Visitors will not be allowed to enter if you have, in the last 14 days:

- been placed on Stay-Home-Notice (SHN), Quarantine Order (QO), Phone Surveillance (PUPS) or on Medical Leave (MC); or
- been notified by MOH to be a possible close contact of a COVID-19 case and been asked to go for a COVID-19 swab test, as part of an ongoing MOH community surveillance testing for visitors within the stipulated duration to identified venues, unless you have received a negative COVID-

19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result after the visit to identified venues; or

- has a household member placed on QO/SHN, or has been notified by MOH to be a possible close contact of a COVID-19 case and been asked to go for a COVID-19 swab test, as part of an ongoing MOH community surveillance test for visitors to identified venues, unless the household member has a negative COVID-19 PCR test result after the visit to identified venues, or is no longer under QO/SHN; or
- received the “Health Risk Warning” (HRW) or “Health Risk Alert” (HRA) SMS issued by MOH; or
- been in the same household of another person who is unwell with fever and / or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath; or
- been unwell (eg. symptoms of cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste), with or without fever; or
- had a fever, of any duration, of > 37.5 degrees Celsius.

Limit on Number of Visitors

In addition, we will continue to control the number of visitors at all other MWS Centres:

- All large group volunteering and activities remain suspended.
- Volunteers who volunteer at multiple locations must not enter.

Nursing Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in-person visitations are suspended from 13 Sept to 24 Oct 2021 (both dates inclusive). • Vendors who provide <u>non-essential</u> deliveries/maintenance works that require access into the wards will not be able to enter. • Vendors who run essential/maintenance services that require access into the wards may enter but will be subject to additional requirements. • Vendors may drop off deliveries at designated ‘drop-off’ points outside the Centre.
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Welfare Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in-person visitations are suspended till further notice. • Only 2 volunteers are allowed within the Home at any one point in time. • Vendors who provide <u>non-essential</u> deliveries/maintenance works that require access into the wards will not be able to enter. • Vendors who run essential/maintenance services that require access into the wards may enter but will be subject to additional requirements. • Vendors may drop off deliveries at designated 'drop-off' points outside the Centre.
Girls' Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2 designated visitors are allowed per resident (subject to the above conditions). • Only 1 designated visitor is allowed per resident per visit, up to 30 mins per visit, and by appointment only. • Only volunteers who lead activities that cannot be conducted remotely and have direct impact on the well-being/hygiene of residents may enter (subject to the above conditions), limited to 2 persons within the Centre at any one time. • Vendors who run essential/maintenance services for our residents may enter (subject to the above conditions). • Vendors may drop off deliveries at designated 'drop-off' points outside the Centre.
Senior Activity Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only members and regular volunteers may enter and by appointment only (subject to the above conditions). • Vaccination Differentiated Safe Management Measures will be in place at the centres from 1st October 2021 • Up to 5 volunteers are allowed at any one time. • Each volunteer can serve for up to only 2 hours per day. • Group activities are suspended till 24 October 2021. • The gym is closed till further notice.
Family Service Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only clients assessed to have moderate to high needs may enter (subject to the above conditions), and by appointment only, and will be served on an individual basis. • Group work/activities are suspended until further notice to limit social mixing across different households. • Service for others will be delivered remotely (via phone calls, emails, video calls) as far as possible.
Student Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parents, including parents of newly enrolled children, may

	<p>not enter the Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any child who is not enrolled in the Centre must not enter the premise during operating hours. • Only visitors who are needed to support the running of the Centre (eg. contractors) and those who need to perform necessary functions (eg. MSF officers) may enter.
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TraceTogether-SafeEntry

All visitors must use the TraceTogether App on their mobile phones or TraceTogether token to check into SafeEntry and at all times while in the Centres.

Visitors will be screened for travel and health history.

Masks & Hand Sanitisation

All visitors must

- wear a surgical / reusable mask at all times
- wash / sanitise hands before and after each visit
- maintain a safe distance (at least 1 metre) at all times

All these measures must be adhered to, regardless of one's COVID-19 vaccination status, or whether they are recovered cases.

Under the Infectious Diseases Act, anyone making a false declaration can be prosecuted.

For clarifications, please contact the MWS Centre you wish to visit. Thank you.

**Issued by
Methodist Welfare Services
6 October 2021**