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Ministry of Education SINGAPORE

10 Oct 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: Updates to Schools' Leave of Absence and Approved Absence Policies

In line with MOH's revised protocols for testing and isolation announced on 9 Oct 2021, MOE's Leave of Absence (LOA) and Approved Absence (AA) policies have been updated accordingly.

2. Students from MOE Kindergartens (MKs), primary schools, secondary schools and JCs/MI would be required to follow MOH's isolation and testing policies. There would be no issuance of MOE LOA and AA for all levels. Students who have been issued with LOA or AA may return to school on 11 Oct with a negative ART result.

3. As MK children and most primary school students are not vaccinated, MKs and primary schools would continue to actively identify close contacts of COVID-19 cases in school and require them to undergo regular testing while waiting for the issuance of a Health Risk Warning (HRW) by MOH. Under this arrangement for Close Contact Testing (CCT):

- a. Identified students may continue to return to school with a negative Antigen Rapid Test (ART) result for each day they need to be in school.
- b. As this is meant to be a bridging measure while awaiting the issuance of HRW by MOH, students will be placed on CCT for a period of 5 days.
- c. If HRW is not issued during the 5 days, the CCT will be lifted, and the student need not perform further testing.

4. In line with the move to living with COVID-19, school staff would not be calling parents to inform them of CCT. Schools will use electronic means (e.g. Parents Gateway or email) instead.

5. If your child has been administered an ART and obtained a positive test result, they should self-isolate at home for 72 hours before repeating the ART. Your child may resume daily activities, including coming to school, if the second ART is negative. If the second ART is also positive, continue to self-isolate and repeat the ART daily until it is negative.

6. Students and their household members should seek medical attention immediately if they are unwell with flu-like symptoms. As part of being socially responsible, students who are unwell should not return to school and should practise good personal hygiene both in school and at home.

7. With your strong partnership, MOE is confident that our schools will remain safe places for our children to learn and develop holistically.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION