

21 Mar 2020

UPDATED ADVISORY TO FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS & EMPLOYERS – FDWS URGED TO STAY HOME ON REST DAYS

The Ministry of Health announced on 20 Mar 2020 that Singapore will implement stricter safe distancing measures to reduce the risk of further local transmission of COVID-19. These measures serve to limit close contact and large gatherings of people in close proximity over a prolonged duration.

2. Foreign domestic workers (FDWs) are similarly expected to adhere to safe distancing practices during their rest days. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM), Centre for Domestic Employees (CDE) and Foreign Domestic Worker Association for Social Support and Training (FAST) would like to share the following recommended social distancing measures with FDWs and employers.

Advisory on rest days

3. FDWs are advised to spend their rest day at home during this period. FDWs who have errands to attend to are encouraged to take their rest day on a weekday, when public spaces are less crowded. If FDWs agree to spend their rest day at home, employers should not assign work to them on their rest day. For FDWs who come to a mutual agreement with their employers to forgo their rest day, employers must provide compensation in lieu of the rest day.

Social distancing on rest days

4. Should FDWs wish to spend their rest day outside, they should:

- Avoid gathering in large groups or minimise time spent at places such as Lucky Plaza, City Plaza, Peninsula Plaza;
- Observe good personal hygiene, minimise physical contact by not shaking hands and maintaining a safe distance from one another; and
- Avoid sharing food, drinks and other personal items.

Employers should remind their FDWs of the above measures before they leave for their rest days. FDWs should also practise social responsibility by monitoring their own health condition. They should see the doctor if they are feeling unwell. They should not go out to prevent spreading the illness to others.

5. We encourage employers and FDWs to maintain open communication with each other especially during this period. Visit MOH's website at www.moh.gov.sg regularly to keep yourself updated on latest developments.