

PROVOST'S MESSAGE



Dear SMU Students

Given the advisories from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education on Singapore's stepping up of risk assessment of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation from DORSCON Yellow to DORSCON Orange, the University has decided to implement enhanced precautionary measures to help safeguard your health and safety. Kindly note the following for (1) student activities and (2) community support for all SMU students.

1. Student Activities

We will follow University guidelines in determining if and how student activities should proceed. Specifically, we take into consideration the following factors:

- i. the scale of the activity (e.g. the expected number of participants)
- ii. ease of access and whether the attendees are internal, external or from overseas
- iii. significance of impact on students if activity/event does not run
- iv. availability and feasibility of alternative platforms for engagement
- v. transmission risk level of activity (e.g. degree of physical contact; and possibility of multiple persons coming into contact with a common object)

For activities at venues outside of SMU, additional considerations include:

- vi. if the activity has been widely publicised and ticket sales have proceeded (in the case of performances)
- vii. guidelines of host organisations for community partnerships
- viii. official guidelines on overseas travels

The Provost's Office has reviewed the planned and upcoming student activities, and the following decisions have been taken.

1.1 Cancellation or postponement of large-scale activities (involving more than 50 participants)

All large-scale activities in the following venues should be cancelled, postponed, or replaced with virtual activities, unless they are deemed critical:

- i. Concourse, T-Junction
- ii. Mochtar Riady Auditorium (MRA), Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium (NAKA), SMU Hall
- iii. University Lounge (U-Lounge), Li Ka Shing Library Quiet Area, Alcove and Student Study Lounges
- iv. All other SMU venues that can house large numbers of participants

To date, we have confirmed the postponement of the following activities. The respective organising units will be in touch with affected student organisers and participants separately.

- **Career Fair**
- **Host Programme Outing**
- **Symphonia Concert at Victoria Concert Hall**
- **SMUCO concert at SOTA**
- **SMUKI Gaya show at NAFA Theatre**

1.2 Large-scale activities which have been publicised and are held at external venues

We will review these on a case-by-case basis. Should these be approved to proceed as planned, the following measures must be fulfilled:

- i. Temperature screening at venue
- ii. Deny entry to those with symptoms
- iii. Travel declaration and contact list for all participants to be maintained
- iv. Venues to have good ventilation and handwashing/sanitising facilities accessible
- v. Clear health advisories displayed for all to read

It will be the onus of staff / student organiser to ensure that the above control measures can be effectively implemented.

1.3 Events involving up to 50 participants

These are allowed to proceed provided the following required measures are taken:

- i. Student participants would have cleared daily temperature screening
- ii. Students who are unwell and/or who display symptoms should not participate
- iii. Attendance list to be kept for contact tracing purposes
- iv. For activities with external participants: all visitors, including coaches and facilitators, must complete a travel declaration and clear temperature screening at one of the SMU temperature screening locations

Many student activities will fall in this category, and the respective units in charge will be contacting the students in charge to facilitate the planning. For activities that are proceeding, the usual [safety consulting and risk assessment process](#) still applies.

However, some of the activities which involve fewer than 50 participants, but involve working with groups with higher vulnerability, and/or traveling to regions with higher risk, will be cancelled.

1.4 Activities that are bound by engagement guidelines of external stakeholders

Some C4SR projects that are working with vulnerable groups involving children and the elderly are affected. C4SR will be in contact with project leaders and members to discuss future arrangements.

1.5 Overseas activities and events

Two overseas community service projects to China have been cancelled and the students involved are actively exploring engagement in other overseas sites.

DKHMCC and PGCS are reviewing overseas internships and short-term immersion programs to ASEAN cities and will communicate directly with students shortly. Similarly, Schools are reviewing business study missions and other overseas activities and will communicate directly with students on whether these will take place.

For activities that are not listed here, we seek your understanding that the organising units will reach out to affected students directly.

2. Community Support for Students

The COVID-19 situation has raised concerns in many, and some of us may be confused and worried. We may find it assuring to rely on family and friends for support. As part of the student community, we want you to know that you are not alone in SMU. If you find yourself in need of emotional and psychological support, please contact our SMU counsellors, via the following:

Mrs Wong Kwok Leong Student Wellness Centre

Tel: 6828 0786 (during office hours)

Mon to Thu: 9.30am to 5.30pm

Fri: 9.30am to 3.30pm

Closed on Sat, Sun & PH

Email: counselling@smu.edu.sg

You can also approach the following community resources:

- Fei Yue Community Services
Service provided: Online counselling
Website: <https://www.ec2.sg/>
- CHAT
Operating: Tues - Fri, 1pm-8pm
Service provided: Web live chat
Website: <https://www.chat.mentalhealth.sg/get-help/mental-health-check/>
- Care Corner Counselling Hotline
Hotline: 1800-353-5800
Service provided: Phone counselling in Mandarin
Website: <https://www.carecorner.org.sg/counselling-centre>

- IMH CRSIS Helpline (24hours)
Hotline: 6389 2222
Service provided: Phone counselling
- Samaritans of Singapore (24hours)
Hotline: 1800-221-4444
Service provided: Counselling via phone and email
Email: PAT@SOS.ORG.SG
- SAF Counselling Centre (24hours)
Hotline: 1800 278 0022
Service provided: Phone counselling

We also encourage you to keep updated with information from Gov.sg and the Ministry of Health. For SMU circulars and notices, please refer to <https://crisisresponse.smu.edu.sg/>. Do follow the advisories on the COVID-19 situation and practise good personal hygiene to protect yourselves. Please seek medical attention immediately if you are feeling unwell, have any fever, cough or flu-like symptoms.

If you have further queries, please write in to the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@smu.edu.sg.

Let's remain vigilant in safeguarding the health and safety of everyone in the SMU community. Take care and stay well.

Kindest regards

Timothy Clark
Provost