

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear SMU Masters students,

I am writing to share with you MOE's latest advisory on the updated border control measures, including Stay Home Notice (SHN) changes and SMU's support for incoming and returning students. It is important that you read through these details if you are planning to arriving in Singapore in the next few months.

Requirements for all travellers from India

1. *Pre-departure test requirements for all travellers from India*

As of 17 September 2020, all travellers who have recent travel history to India within the last 14 days prior to entry, including Student Pass (STP) holders, are required to present a valid negative COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction test result taken within 72 hours before departure, as a condition to enter Singapore. MOE has clarified that the test result memo must include the following:

- a. statement of negative test result in English;
- b. the particulars of the traveller in accordance with the particulars in the passport (including Date of Birth, Nationality & Passport Number); and
- c. the date that the test was taken.

2. *Mandatory serology test for all travellers from India*

To identify recovered individuals, **from 23 September 2020**, all travellers from India, including SCs, PRs and STP holders, will be scheduled for a serology test at the SHN dedicated facility (SDF) between Day 3 to Day 5 of SHN. Travellers will be informed of their serology test appointment and results via SMS and email, as per the current process for swab tests, generally one day after the test is taken. Depending on the results, the following SHN requirements will apply:

Results	Sero-positive	Sero-negative
SHN requirement	<p>a. Exit swab test on Day 11 waived; and b. SHN lifted after completing an additional 7 days of self-isolation, counted from the test date, i.e. end SHN on Day 12 if tested on Day 5.</p> <p><i>[For travellers staying together as a family unit, SHN will only be lifted if everyone is tested as sero-positive. Children aged 12 and below need not undergo serology testing.]</i></p>	<p>No changes i.e. to undergo the swab test on Day 11 and complete their 14-day SHN.</p>

3. STP holders who had remained in India for the past 14 days will continue to be charged only for their SHN accommodation at the SDF, and the swab test at the end of their SHN stay, with **no further charges for the serology test**. No refunds will be issued for the COVID-19 swab test or shortened SHN stay as a result of receiving a sero-positive result.

Border restrictions for travellers from Brunei, New Zealand, Australia (excluding Victoria State) and Vietnam

4. With effect from 2 Oct 2020, SCs, PRs and Long Term Pass holders (including STP holders) who had remained in Brunei, New Zealand, Australia (excluding Victoria State) or Vietnam for the past 14 days prior to arrival, will undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival, in lieu of a 7-day SHN. All travellers are strongly encouraged to register and pre-pay for their post-arrival COVID-19 test prior to departing for Singapore at <https://safetravel.changiairport.com>. Travellers will be charged \$300 for this swab test conducted at the airport.
5. For avoidance of doubt, all STP holders, including those returning from Brunei, New Zealand, Australia (excluding Victoria State) and Vietnam, will continue to need to apply to MOE for entry approval, and require entry approval letters to enter Singapore.

Revised SHN accommodation policy

6. Since 15 June 2020, MOE provided hostel places as an option to STP holders who were able to serve their 7-day SHN outside of SHN dedicated facilities (SDFs). **With immediate effect, these MOE-managed hostels will no longer be an available option.**
7. Travellers who had remained in Macao, Mainland China, Malaysia, and Taiwan for the past 14 days prior to arrival should serve their SHN at:
 - a. A place of residence that they or their family members own or are sole tenants of, or a place of residence wholly rented by STP holders; or
 - b. A hotel (private room with an ensuite bathroom) that is not a SDF. *[STPs may find accommodation options online such as a list put together by the Singapore Global Network, or on hotel aggregators. As at 30 Sep 2020, Singapore Global Network (<https://singaporeglobalnetwork.gov.sg/resources/covid-19/>) has put together a list at <https://go.gov.sg/sgn-shorttermaccomm.>]*
8. Travellers from all other countries/regions not mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 7 above, including Victoria State of Australia, should continue to serve SHN at SDFs.
9. Swab tests will continue to be conducted. For travellers from Macao, Mainland China, Malaysia, and Taiwan, the swab tests will be conducted on Day 5; and for travellers from countries/regions not listed in paragraphs 4 and 7, the swab tests will be conducted on Day 11. Travellers will be charged \$186 for this swab test.

Revised subsidy policy and charges

10. **MOE will be ceasing all subsidies for SHN accommodation for entry applications from 1 November 2020 onwards.** MOE's subsidies were intended to be a transitional support for students who had been caught by surprise by the new SHN and charging requirements. However, travellers, including STP holders, should make themselves aware of the required costs of travel to Singapore, including SHN costs, in the new normal. All STP holders will be required to pay the prevailing rate at the time of application. No appeals for MOE subsidies will be entertained.

11. In line with the cessation of MOE's subsidies, SMU will also be making the following changes to its one-time reimbursement assistance scheme for our postgraduate STP holders.

Entry applications made	Between 2 Oct 2020 and 31 Dec 2020	From 1 Jan 2021 onwards
Group 0 countries/regions^a (no SHN required; swab test upon arrival)	\$300 to cover swab test cost	No reimbursement
Group 1 countries/regions^a (7-day SHN at non-SDF; swab test on day 5)	Up to \$490 for all students, and \$186 for swab test	
Group 2 countries/regions^b (14-day SHN at SDF; swab test on day 11)	Up to \$840 for all students, and \$186 for swab test	

- a. As of 2 October 2020, Group 0 refers to Brunei, New Zealand, Australia (excluding Victoria State) and Vietnam, and Group 1 refers to Macao, Mainland China, Malaysia, and Taiwan. The countries/regions constituting Group 0 and Group 1 may change as per ICA/MOE advice.
- b. Group 2 refers to all countries and regions, including Victoria State of Australia, that are not included in Group 0 or Group 1.

12. Please note again that the above one-time reimbursement from SMU will cease after 31 Dec 2020. Starting from Jan 2021, more classes and student activities will take place on-campus. Students should bear in mind that for the courses that are conducted on campus, no special arrangements will be made for these lessons (including assessments) to be taken remotely.

For our students who are not yet in Singapore or those starting in Jan 2021, I encourage you to travel to Singapore before the end of the year. For those already in Singapore, please continue to adhere to all safety measures put in place by authorities and SMU. Thank you.

Warmest Regards,

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