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Ministry of Education  
SINGAPORE

25 June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

In line with the national posture, schools will reopen gradually from Term 3, 28 June 2021.

2. To keep our students and schools safe, MOE has enhanced its Leave of Absence (LOA) and Approved Absence (AA) policies to ensure that students or staff with possible risk of infection stay away from school.
3. As part of MOE's screening measures, these students should not go to school:
  - a. If students or individuals (6 years old and above) in their household are unwell with flu-like symptoms.
  - b. If students or their household members are required to undergo mandatory testing due to a COVID-19 cluster.
  - c. If students are placed on AA, LOA, Stay Home Notice, or under a Quarantine Order.

Details of the enhancements are shown in [Annex A](#).

4. If your child/ward belongs to any of the above categories, alert the school so that schools can provide the appropriate guidance.
5. Students should practise good personal hygiene both in school and at home. Students and their household members should seek medical attention immediately if they are unwell with flu-like symptoms (even mild symptoms) and should undergo a COVID-19 swab test. MOE strongly urges all parents to comply with our screening policy to keep their children at home and inform the school immediately if there are household members who have flu-like symptoms, or are awaiting results of a mandatory swab test.

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

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Annex A: Enhancements to Schools' Leave of Absence (LOA) and Approved Absence (AA) Policies

Category	Description
<b>Leave of Absence (Quarantine Order)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For students staying in the same household as <u>individuals on QO</u> serving QO at their place of residence, for the duration of their QO.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. LOA (QO) will not be issued to students if their household member on QO is not serving their QO at their place of residence.</li><li>b. For students staying in the same household as individuals who are awaiting transportation to GQF, until the PUQ<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. moves out to serve the QO at the GQF; <u>and</u></li><li>ii. tests negative for COVID-19 entry swab test.</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>
<b>Approved Absence</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. For students staying in the same household as <u>individuals (6 years and above) with flu-like symptoms</u>.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. They will be placed on AA and be required to stay at home until the unwell household member's COVID-19 test result (Antigen Rapid Test (ART) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Test)* is reported to be negative.</li></ol></li><li>3. For students, if <u>they or their household members</u> have to undergo <u>mandatory</u> testing due to a COVID-19 cluster.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. They will be placed on AA and required to stay at home until the individual's COVID-19 test result (ART or PCR)* is reported to be negative.</li><li>b. This does not include students with household members who are healthcare workers and other sectors who undergo rostered routine testing.</li></ol></li><li>4. For students who have been on MC due to flu-like symptoms and are unable to produce evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result (ART or PCR)* by the end of their MC.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. They will be placed on AA for a further 5 days after the date of expiry of their MC.</li></ol></li></ol>

*\*Parents may refer to the following link <<http://flu.gowhere.gov.sg/>> for a list and map of clinics and medical groups that provide PCR tests for adults and children.*