



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

MOH Circular No. 110/2020

30 April 2020

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## REMINDER TO ALL HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS AND HEALTHCARE WORKERS ON SAFE DISTANCING MEASURES AND THE DEFERMENT OF NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD

On 6 April 2020, the Ministry issued circulars 91-94,96/2020 to all healthcare institutions and practitioners on services deferment and reduction during COVID-19 circuit breaker period (see [Annex](#)). All non-essential activities including businesses, must be suspended for the entire duration of the circuit breaker which has been extended until 1 June 2020. These enhanced measures are put in place to reduce the risk of further local transmission of COVID-19. All healthcare institutions and healthcare workers<sup>1</sup> are reminded to comply strictly with these measures.

### COMPLIANCE CHECKS ON HEALTHCARE INSTITUTIONS

2. Since 9 April 2020, MOH Health Regulation Group has been conducting audits on licensed healthcare institutions to ensure compliance to the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act and Regulations 2020. These audits involve the review of non-essential services and safe distancing measures at the healthcare institutions.

3. To date, a Specialist Clinic in the private sector was issued with \$1,000 composition for failing to put in place safe distancing measures, despite advice given on the ground. In addition, more than 330 orders have been issued to healthcare institutions and businesses for providing non-essential services.

#### *1. Essential Healthcare Providers Providing Non-Essential Services*

4. Some of the non-essential services found to have been provided by essential healthcare providers were:

##### **Medical Clinics**

- Outpatient health screening services for the purpose of providing medical clearance required for the inception of insurance policies;

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<sup>1</sup> Healthcare workers (HCWs) includes all employees (directly employed or outsourced) who are doctors, nurses, allied healthcare professionals, clinic and dental assistants, clinical/non-clinical researchers, locums, including administrative and ancillary staff working in any healthcare institution with no direct care roles.



- Consultation for skin and hair conditions which are stable and on long-term follow up;
- Provision of botox, fillers and chemical peels for aesthetic purposes; and
- Supply of facial cleanser, lotion and cream refills over the counter.

### **Dental Clinics**

- Elective dental procedures such as scaling, polishing and topical fluoride treatment; and
- Initiation of non-urgent/non-emergency dental treatment such as crowns and implants.

### **Acute Hospitals**

- Elective eye procedures including cataract surgeries for stable cataracts;
- Screening/surveillance endoscopy services on asymptomatic patients; and
- Elective ENT procedures such as septoplasty or turbinectomy for stable cases.

## ***II. Non-Adherence to Enhanced Safe Distancing Measures***

5. Several essential healthcare providers and workers were found to have flouted the enhanced safe distancing measures as follows:

- No physical demarcations within the premises (e.g. at waiting areas) to guide the patients/caregivers on the need to practise safe distancing at all times.
- Staff from different healthcare institutions were found to have gathered for social interaction over lunch.

## **STRICT COMPLIANCE TO CIRCUIT BREAKER MEASURES**

6. All licensed healthcare institutions and healthcare workers must comply strictly with the circuit breaker measures:

- a) Review all services and procedures provided during the circuit-breaker period and defer all non-essential services/procedures if not already done so;
- b) Put in place measures to reduce the number of staff who need to be physically on-site at the healthcare institutions. For example, backroom office staff should tele-commute as far as possible. Physical counter services should be scaled down, and substituted with digital services where possible; and
- c) Implement and comply with safe distancing and infection prevention and control measures to minimise unnecessary close social interaction between patients and staff as well as between staff, during and after office hours, including during breaks (e.g. lunch and tea time).

7. The Ministry will enforce and take disciplinary actions against any individual or business that fails to comply with the circuit breaker measures.

8. Please refer to <https://covid.qbusiness.gov.sg/essentialservices> for the latest



and most updated list of essential activities that will be allowed to continue. Businesses that are not performing services listed but believe they have strong grounds for exemption from the suspension should read the guidance provided by the Ministry of Trade & Industry. They may then apply to be exempted via the same website. Only business entities performing or providing critical support for COVID-19 related or essential activities will be exempted.

9. For clarification on this circular, please email [elis@moh.gov.sg](mailto:elis@moh.gov.sg).



A/PROF KENNETH MAK  
DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH






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Ministry of Health, Singapore  
College of Medicine Building  
16 College Road  
Singapore 169854  
TEL (65) 6325 9220  
FAX (65) 6224 1677  
WEB [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)

**CIRCULARS ON COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER MEASURES**

<p><b>92/2020</b></p> <p><b>CIRCULAR ON SERVICES DEFERMENT AND REDUCTION DURING COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD</b></p> <p>6 April 2020</p> <p><i>CEOs &amp; CMBs of Public Hospitals MD &amp; EDs of National Specialty Centres CEOs, GMs &amp; MDs of Private Hospitals CEOs &amp; MDs of Community Hospitals CEOs, COOs &amp; Directors of Clinical Services of Polyclinics</i></p>	 MOH Cir No 92_2020_6Apr20_Ess
<p><b>93/2020</b></p> <p><b>CIRCULAR ON SERVICES DEFERMENT AND REDUCTION DURING COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD</b></p> <p>6 April 2020</p> <p><i>Licensees of General Practitioner Clinics Licensees of Specialist Medical Clinics</i></p>	 MOH Cir No 93_2020_6Apr20_Ess
<p><b>94/2020</b></p> <p><b>CIRCULAR ON SERVICES DEFERMENT AND REDUCTION DURING COVID-19 CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD</b></p> <p>6 April 2020</p> <p><i>All registered TCM practitioners</i></p>	 MOH Cir No 94_2020_6Apr20_Ess
<p><b>91/2020</b></p> <p><b>CIRCULAR WORKFLOW FOR PATIENTS PRESENTING FOR DENTAL CARE AT PRIVATE DENTAL CLINICS</b></p> <p>4 April 2020</p> <p><i>All Dental Clinics All Registered Dental Practitioners</i></p>	 MOH Cir No 91_2020_4Apr20_Wo
<p><b>96/2020</b></p> <p><b>UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR PROVISION OF DENTAL CARE DURING CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD</b></p> <p>12 April 2020</p> <p><i>All Dental Clinics All Registered Dental Practitioners</i></p>	 MOH Cir No 96_2020_12Apr20_De