



9th March 2020

COVID-19 Precautionary Cleaning Follow-Up

Dear Chatsworth Community,

Due to the SMS system activation and email letter sent out last evening, we had only four students arrive at school this morning. I am sure that some parents were helping to spread the information last evening through the class parent networks and we are appreciative for that - thank you.

As more information has come to us since yesterday evening and this morning we would like to highlight the following for our school community:

- as stated in the previous letter, the student is from Ms Claire's Year 3 classroom
- the **student has tested negative** as have other members of the household
- both parents have tested positive for COVID-19

Neither parent has been on the school campus since **February 25th**, when the father dropped the student off at school after lessons had already commenced. The parent has informed us of their movements on campus and they had no contact with students other than their own child. The father went to Reception to sign-in and then up to Ms Claire's classroom but the class was already out to a specialist lesson. The father then walked the student to the canteen where she climbed the steps on her own to PE class and the father left the campus. The father was not presenting symptoms of being unwell while he was on campus and did not begin to present symptoms until the 4th of March.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) conducts all contact tracing for COVID-19 cases in Singapore and both parents have been through this process. To date, we have still not heard information from MOH regarding this case and our office continues to do our best to communicate with them. We have left urgent messages with both the Committee for Private Education (CPE) and MOH and we are awaiting further information if any.

Where it has been thirteen (13) days since the parent was on campus, he was not presenting with any symptoms, and there was extremely limited interaction with staff, the risk of transmission is extremely low. No other staff or students have exhibited symptoms during this period. The National Environment Agency (NEA) and MOH state



that the virus can live on surfaces for 2-3 days ([LINK](#)) and far more time has passed in this instance.

Nevertheless, we have conducted thorough cleaning of classrooms and common areas today, guided by the NEA suggestions for cleaning of spaces that have had transient exposure to confirmed cases, where the confirmed case has only been present for a short period of time ([LINK](#)).

Since 27th January, we have increased our cleaning practices in school so that any exposure to the community would be mitigated as much as possible. On the 29th January, we implemented temperature checking upon entry to the campus for all individuals and have since increased this practice to twice per day for staff and students. For any student who has presented fever or other noticeable signs of illness, parents have been contacted and the child has been sent home until they are well enough to return to school. In addition, we have cancelled public events and parent gatherings on campus as per the advice from the local authorities in order to limit potential exposure.

Transport

The student normally travels back-and-forth to school using Tong Tar Transport. The morning and afternoon bus that the child takes is Bus 05. Tong Tar was informed yesterday and performed a thorough cleaning of the bus today. Tong Tar Transport has also increased cleaning of the buses since January with drivers cleaning and wiping down surfaces daily. As part of our daily temperature checks that have been running since January, in addition to screening all students and adults entering the campus, so too have we been screening all bus drivers and bus aunties with regular checks in the morning and afternoons. Tong Tar Transport also mandates that the drivers and aunties check their temperatures in the morning before going to work.

Contact Tracing

We note that some parents, particularly the parents of Year 3 Ms Claire's classroom, will want to know if their child or staff has come into contact with the parents. Where the parents have not been on campus since the 25th February and the parent had no contact with students at that time, we believe this is very low risk. Please note that all contact tracing is performed by the Ministry of Health and, as stated above, both parents have been through this process. Where there has been no contact tracing with



anyone here at Chatsworth, to date, we believe there is very little risk. However, we continue to reach out to MOH and CPE for clarification and information to ensure the health and safety of all members of our community. Should there be any change in this information, our community will be informed.

Chatsworth has been, and continues to remain, completely transparent with our practices and policies regarding COVID-19. This event has caused concern but, again, the school feels the risk is very low as there has been very little contact with the parents and our community and our cleaning practices have been increased for some time. The thorough cleaning practice taken today has been done as a precautionary measure.

We thank our families for their continued support and understanding during this period of the virus outbreak. We remain vigilant in our cleaning practices and transparent in our communications. **The school campus will reopen tomorrow, on Tuesday the 10th March, at our normal times.**

We remain in close contact with the family and are pleased to know that the student is doing well and is healthy. We cannot imagine how difficult a time this is for the family, being separated from one another, and we wish the parents a quick recovery so that they may return home.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Tyler Sherwood
Head of Schools