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Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

18 Aug 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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

Students from primary, secondary, JC/CI, and staff will be placed on Leave of Absence (LOA) under specific circumstances, including if students/staff stay in the same household as individuals on Quarantine Order (QO) whether it is served at a Government Quarantine Facility (GQF) or at home.

2. From 19 August, with the gradual easing of community safe management measures, students/staff will have their LOA rescinded and may return to school when one of the conditions below are met:

- a. When the Person Under Quarantine (PUQ), scheduled to serve QO at GQF, tests negative for COVID-19 at the entry swab test and is well (regardless of whether PUQ is still at home or in GQF); **or**
- b. When the PUQ is serving QO at home and MOH quarantine/testing requirements allow household members to leave the house and carry on with their daily routine. PUQ must also test negative for COVID-19 at the entry swab test and be well.

3. From 19 August, students/staff who have been issued with a Health Risk Warning (HRW) notification or have household members who have been issued an HRW, will have their Approved Absence (AA) rescinded and may return to school after the student/staff or household member(s) tests negative for COVID-19 and is well.

4. Details of the updates to the LOA and AA policies are shown in [Annex A](#).

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

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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

Category	Description
<p>Leave of Absence (Quarantine Order)</p>	<p>1. [Amended] For students staying in the same household as PUQ. LOA(QO) will be rescinded if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>PUQ, scheduled to serve QO at GQF, tests negative for COVID-19 entry swab test and is well (regardless of whether PUQ is still at home or in GQF);</u> or b. <u>PUQ is serving QO at home</u> and MOH quarantine/testing requirements allow household members to leave the house and carry on with their daily routine. PUQ must also test negative for COVID-19 entry swab test and be well.
<p>Approved Absence</p>	<p>2. [No Change] For students staying in the same household as <u>individuals (6 years and above) with flu-like symptoms.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>3. [Amended] For students, if <u>they or their household members</u> have to undergo <u>mandatory</u> testing due to a COVID-19 cluster. This includes those that have been issued a Health Risk Warning SMS by MOH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. They will be placed on AA and required to stay at home until the individual's COVID-19 PCR test result is reported to be negative. b. This does not include students with household members who are healthcare workers and other sectors who undergo rostered routine testing. <p>4. [No Change] 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. They will be placed on AA for a further 5 days after the date of expiry of their MC.