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Additional Measures for Newly Arrived Foreign Workers in Singapore

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Singapore has reported on the recent measures implemented by the City-State's Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF). In order to further reduce the risk of transmission from newly arrived migrant workers into the workplace, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) has decided to implement the following:

- 1. Extension the post-Stay-Home Notice (SHN) 7-day testing regime to all newly arrived Work Permit and S Pass workers in Construction, Marine and Process (CMP) sectors from higher-risk countries/regions1. Previously, only those headed to dormitories needed to be subject to the additional 7-days testing. MTF has also decided on mandatory On-Arrival Serology test for foreign domestic workers (FDW) and confinement nannies (CN) who have recent travel history to higher-risk countries/regions. The additional test will help to identify FDWs who have recovered from an old infection and can therefore be released early from SHN in Singapore.
- 2. 7-Day Testing Regime after 14-Day SHN for Newly Arrived Work Permit and S Pass Workers from CMP sectors.

From 5 February 2021, newly arrived Work Permit and S Pass workers from CMP sectors who have recent travel history to higher-risk countries/regions will have to stay at a designated facility to go through an additional 7-day testing regime, after completing their 14-Day SHN. The new requirement applies to workers who have yet to complete their 14-Day SHN on 5 February and all new arrivals to Singapore from this date. This requirement has been in place for newly arrived CMP foreign workers living in dormitories since 6 January 2021.

3. Additional On-Arrival Serology Test for Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs) and Confinement Nannies (CNs)

From 5 February 2021, FDWs and CNs who have recent travel history to higher-risk countries/regions will have to take an On-Arrival Serology test. This is in addition to the On-Arrival Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test requirement in place from 24 January 2021 at 2359 hours.

The additional On-Arrival Serology Test will allow for the identification of workers who have recovered from an old COVID-19 infection and have antibodies and can therefore be released from SHN. Employers of these recovered workers will see lower SHN costs.

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For the information and guidance of all concerned.

BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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Sources

Philippine Overseas Labor Office, Singapore

Singapore Ministry of Manpower $\underline{www.mom.gov.sg}$

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