

16 June 2009



Dear Sir/Mdm

ADVISORY FOR EMPLOYERS OF FOREIGNERS REGARDING INFLUENZA A (H1N1-2009)

On 11 June 09, World Health Organisation (WHO) raised the Influenza A (H1N1-2009) alert level to Phase 6, indicating that a global pandemic was underway.

2 In the light of the current situation, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) strongly urges employers who bring in employees, or who have existing employees returning from countries with community transmission of H1N1, to exercise social responsibility and take the following precautions:

- i) Advise these employees to minimize contact with the wider community within 7 days of arrival.
- ii) Where feasible, to consider separating the accommodation of newly-arrived employees during this period.
- iii) Closely monitor the employees for the following symptoms within 7 days of arrival:
 - a) High fever (> 38 deg C)
 - b) Sore throat
 - c) Cough
 - d) Body aches
 - e) Runny nose
 - f) Headaches
 - g) Tiredness.
- iv) Advise employees who develop any of the above symptoms to wear surgical masks, and call 993 for a dedicated ambulance service to bring him/her for further assessment at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

3 Some foreign workers live in households (such as domestic workers) or are housed in large groups where it may not be possible to separate them from other workers. For such cases, some employers may choose the precaution of housing their workers at offsite accommodation for a period of 7 days after they have arrived in Singapore, before bringing them back to their regular accommodation or into the household (for domestic workers). Employers who opt to do so may wish to approach their Employment Agencies, if any, to work out the necessary arrangement.

4 For the list of countries with community transmission of H1N1, please refer to the MOH website at www.moh.gov.sg. For more information, you can visit our website at www.mom.gov.sg/flu or you can call the MOM Contact Centre at 64385122.

Yours faithfully,

CONTROLLER OF WORK PASSES