

The Licensee

**Advisory to Employment Agencies on
Influenza A (H1N1-2009) Precautionary Measures**

CONFIRMED H1N1 CASE INVOLVING FDW

A Foreign Domestic Worker (FDW) who arrived in Singapore last week was subsequently found to be a confirmed H1N1 case. She was detected to have a fever by the thermal scanner at the Immigration checkpoint. The FDW was given a referral letter to seek medical attention but was not sent to Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) as she did not travel from a country with community spread. However the employment agent did not take the FDW to see a doctor immediately. Although the FDW was running a fever, the employment agent brought her and 6 other FDWs who arrived on the same flight to their lodging place where other foreign workers were also housed. The employment agent brought the FDW and other newly-arrived workers for their Work Permit medical examination the next day. Only upon advice from the doctor was the FDW brought to TTSH and was subsequently confirmed to have H1N1. MOH has conducted contact tracing to identify persons who had come into contact with the FDW. Those identified have been served with Home Quarantine Orders.

2 In light of the above case, **the Ministry of Manpower would like to reiterate to all Employment Agencies (EAs) who deal with or house newly-arrived foreign workers to play your part in being vigilant. You should be attentive and conscientious in monitoring these workers before having them come into contact with other workers as well as the wider community or deploying them to their employers.**

3 We strongly urge EAs to do the following in the event a worker displays flu-like symptoms:

- The worker should be isolated, given a face mask and medical attention immediately.
- Call 993 immediately for an ambulance service to bring the worker for further assessment at TTSH, if the worker is from countries/regions with community spread and/or known to have exported cases.
- If the worker is subsequently confirmed as a H1N1 case, please work with MOH to identify the close contacts for quarantine purposes. Employers of the close contacts should be kept updated of the situation. You should also immediately inform MOM's Employment Agency Licensing Branch, Foreign Manpower Management Division, Ministry of Manpower at mom_ea@mom.gov.sg or call 6419 9406 (during office hours) or 97118314 (after office hours).

The Ministry will take action against employment agents who have acted irresponsibly.

4 Please refer to **Annex** for other possible measures EAs are urged to adopt prior to the departure of the foreign workers for Singapore and upon their arrival here.

5 For more information, you can visit our website at www.mom.gov.sg/flu or call the MOM Contact Centre at 64385122. Alternatively, you can email any queries to or contact the Employment Agency Licensing Branch, Foreigner Manpower Management Division, Ministry of Manpower at the email address and contact numbers in paragraph 3.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thamarai Maniam', written in a cursive style.

Thamarai Maniam
Deputy Head, Employment Agency Licensing Branch
Foreign Manpower Management Division
Ministry of Manpower

Pre-Departure

EAs should be socially responsible and vigilant to make arrangements with their overseas counterparts, to monitor the health of foreign workers prior to departure from their home country. **Workers who are feeling unwell or displaying flu symptoms prior to departure should not travel.**

Arrival in Singapore

Please refer to the first advisory sent to EAs by the Controller of Work Pass on 16 Jun 09 for details on the necessary precautions. You can also view the previous advisory at www.mom.gov.sg/flu.

MOM requisite tests / mandatory courses

EAs should send workers who are feeling unwell for medical treatment immediately. These workers should only attend the requisite tests/courses for the purpose of Work Permit issuance after EAs have ascertained that they have recovered and are fit to do so. If the workers are unable as a result to complete the tests / courses within the stipulated timeframe, please write in to MOM Work Pass Division with the doctor's memo and medical certificate to mom_fdw_call@mom.gov.sg (for FDW entry tests / Safety Awareness Course) or to mom_ci_call@mom.gov.sg (for Construction Safety Orientation Course / Shipyard Safety Induction Course) to request for a deferment. MOM will exercise flexibility under such circumstances.

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