



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

02 FEBRUARY 2020

ADVISORY FOR INDIVIDUALS SHARING RESIDENTIAL SPACES WITH PERSONS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. As a precautionary measure, Singapore residents and long-term pass holders who have recently travelled to mainland China within the last 14 days are placed on a 14-day leave of absence (LOA) from the day of their return to Singapore, with effect from 31 January 2020¹.
2. While the risk of infection from these returning travellers is considerably lower than those who had been to Hubei or had close contact with confirmed cases, they are placed on LOA to reduce their interaction with others, so as to prevent transmission of disease in workplaces, place of educations, and to the community.

ADVISORY FOR INDIVIDUALS SHARING ROOM / APARTMENT WITH PERSONS ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3. While it is not necessary to be segregated from the person placed under LOA and you can continue to share the same room/apartment, you are encouraged to reduce interaction and minimise contact with them. For example, you can avoid close and sustained contact by not sharing a bed, limiting the time spent together at common areas within the apartment, having separate meal times, ensuring proper ventilation etc.
4. Avoid sharing food, crockery, utensils and other personal hygiene items.
5. Maintain good personal hygiene at all times. This includes frequent flushing of toilets, hand washing with soap and water before and after handling food or eating, and after going to toilet.

ADVISORY FOR DORM OPERATORS / LANDLORDS / MANAGEMENT OF PREMISES/FACILITIES

6. Dorm operators, landlords and other relevant management of facilities should not evict occupants under LOA from their residence or impose unduly restrictive measures on these occupants.
7. Occupants under LOA should be strongly discouraged from using common spaces such as function rooms or gyms. Dorm operators, landlords and other relevant

¹The leave of absence does not apply retrospectively to people who returned to Singapore from mainland China before 31 January 2020 6pm. The earlier advisories issued on 28 January 2020 for preschools and education, healthcare and eldercare sectors would continue.

management of facilities may thus wish to consider implementing measures to ensure that affected occupants do not use common facilities while under LOA.

8. Please ensure that your facilities/premises are kept clean. Routine cleaning of facilities/premises should be carried out as per normal. No special precautions, such as masks, gloves or disinfectant use, are needed beyond that used for routine cleaning.

9. If an occupant is unwell, isolate him/her immediately in a room or area away from others where possible and advise the occupant to seek medical attention immediately. Please provide the occupant with a surgical mask, if possible, and ensure that he/she avoids taking public transport.

10. Take down the names and contact details (address, telephone number) of all persons who have come into close contact with the occupant when he/she had fever, cough or breathlessness, or was feeling unwell. If the occupant is confirmed to have the 2019 novel coronavirus, MOH officers will contact the facility operator/management to trace all those who came into contact with the occupant.

11. For further information, please visit the MOH website at <http://www.moh.gov.sg/>

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) FOR
INDIVIDUALS SHARING RESIDENTIAL SPACES WITH PERSONS ON LEAVE
OF ABSENCE (LOA)**

1. Can someone live in the same room as a person on LOA?

While you can live in the same room as a person on LOA, you are encouraged to reduce interaction and minimise contact with a person on LOA. For example, avoid sharing a bed, limit the time spent together at common areas within the apartment, have separate meal times, ensure that the room has proper ventilation etc.

2. Can persons on LOA share the same toilet as other occupants in the same household?

You are advised to avoid sharing the same toilet where possible. If it is not practical to do so, avoid using the toilet at the same time and clean toilet surfaces more frequently. You may also wish to allow some time to pass between toilet usage, in order to allow any remaining water droplets after showers to settle to the ground. Sharing the same roll of toilet paper is safe as long as the toilet roll is not stained, soiled or wet.

Sharing of towels is not advised.

3. I operate a dormitory. Do I need to segregate a person on LOA from other occupants of the dorm?

While persons on LOA can stay in the same dormitory room as others, where possible and practical, measures to minimise contact between a person on LOA and other occupants are encouraged. Examples of these could include separating belongings of workers to minimise overlapping circulating space, having separate meal times, ensuring proper ventilation, etc.

Sharing of beds is not advised.