



25 March 2020

Assalamualaikum Wr Wb

Dear IECP proprietors, managers and persons-in-charge,

COVID19 ADVISORY ON TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF (ISLAMIC EDUCATION CENTRES AND PROVIDERS) IECP ACTIVITIES

We pray that you are in the best of health and faith, amin.

2 The Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced on 24 March 2020 stricter measures¹ to minimise the further spread of COVID-19 due to the recent spike of local and imported cases.

3 As there is a high risk of transmission due to sustained close contact over a period of time, all IECPs are therefore advised to adhere to the new measures below:

i) All centre-based or home-based IECPs and religious classes must be suspended. This is to reduce the intermingling of students, regardless of their age, and enhance their safety.

ii) IECPs operating as kindergartens that are licenced under ECDA may continue operations and to follow their guidelines closely. However, in the event of ECDA suspending kindergartens, IECPs must adhere to the new advisory.

4 These measures will take effect from **26 March 2020 and to be in place until 30 April 2020**, but this may be extended if the situation does not improve. We urge all IECP to comply accordingly as the Ministry of Health (MOH) will be promulgating regulations under the Infectious Diseases Act to give legal force to the safe distancing measures. In addition, existing levers under the Infectious Diseases Act including the temporary suspension of operations, may be used against persons and operators found to be non-compliant with the regulations.

5 In this challenging situation, we understand that IECPs and our asatizah may face financial issues. Asatizah who are affected may wish to seek assistance from Pergas' Gracious Package. Information on that may be found on Pergas website via www.pergas.org.sg

6. IECPs may wish to offer learning and classes via online platforms. You may explore the following options:

- i. Facebook Live <https://www.fb.com/facebookmedia/solutions/facebook-live>
- ii. Instagram Live <https://help.instagram.com/292478487812558>
- iii. Youtube Live <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2474026?hl=en>
- iv. Zoom <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360029527911>
- v. Google Meet <https://bit.ly/39cLHzK>
- vi. Webinar Jam <https://home.webinarjam.com/contact>
- vii. Skype <https://www.skype.com/en/features/skype-web/>
- viii. Cisco Webex <https://www.webex.com>



7 The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has announced the Leave of Absence (LOA) support for company-LOA or self-imposed LOA for workers returning between 14 and 20 March 2020. The advisory states that *“employers and self-employed Singapore Citizens (SC) and Permanent Residents (PR) are eligible to apply for \$100 daily support under the LOASP for workers or persons who were not required to serve mandatory Stay-Home Notice but went on company-imposed LOA or self-imposed LOA”*.²

8 In the recent media release on 24 March, MOM has given further measures to help companies cope with Covid-19 situation.³

9 Let us all be steadfast, play our part, and be socially responsible and pray to Allah swt to alleviate and assist us in this trying time. We also wish to remind our stakeholders and asatizah to remain vigilant yet patient and calm. We are facing this difficult moment as a community and nation, and Insyah Allah, together we will overcome the challenge. Ameen.

10 Should you have any enquiries of further clarification, please contact us via info@muis.gov.sg or 6359 1440.

Thank you and wassalam.

**OFFICE OF MUFTI (ARS OFFICE)
ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF SINGAPORE (MUIS)**

¹ <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/tighter-measures-to-minimise-further-spread-of-covid-19>

² <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/advisory-on-loa>

³ <https://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/2020/0324-further-measures-to-help-companies-cope-with-covid-19-situation>