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Dear Students,

### ADVISORY FOR THE COMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Following the Multi-Ministry Taskforce's decision to extend the COVID-19 circuit breaker period till 1 June 2020, the Ministry of Education had brought forward the June school holidays to 5 May 2020. With this, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would like to take this opportunity to remind students of the dire consequences of committing crime and drug/inhalant abuse, as well as to take measures to avoid being victims of crime.

#### Drug and Inhalant Abuse Situation

2 In 2019, thirty eight percent (1,351) of all drug abusers arrested were young abusers below the age of 30. Out of these 1,351 young abusers, two-thirds (895) of them were new abusers. **Students should be mindful that the possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.**

3 **Be vigilant against drug and inhalant abuse.** We must continue to be vigilant against the harms of drugs and inhalants as they are harmful and can cause permanent damage to your body and organs. Equip yourself with the correct facts to counter misinformation that drugs are not addictive. Pursue a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and indulge in activities and/or hobbies during this period to enrich and develop greater mental and physical resilience.

4 **Keeping watch – online drug activities.** CNB monitors online drug activities and has taken action against those who order drugs/drug paraphernalia online or have the drugs delivered by post or courier. CNB will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in illegal drug activities.

#### Stay Home, Stay Safe

5 The Police would like to urge students to take the circuit breaker measures seriously. Stay at home and comply with safe distancing measures. Do not loiter in public or hang out with your friends or classmates. Students are also reminded to cooperate with, and comply with the

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instructions of enforcement officers (EOs), and SG Clean and Safe Distancing Ambassadors. The Police will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse of them.

6 **It is easy to be traced and caught for cheating others through online platforms such as Carousell, Shopee, Facebook and Instagram.** Students have been arrested for online purchase scams where victims did not receive the promised goods after making payments.

7 **Exercise caution when taking up part-time jobs online, especially those promising quick and easy money.** Youths have unknowingly been duped by scammers into becoming **money mules** by allowing their bank accounts to be used to receive monies belonging to scam victims and thereafter withdrawing them for depositing into cryptocurrency ATMs. In other instances, youths have also been recruited for **unlicensed moneylending activities** via responding to job ads online (e.g. Facebook, Carousell, Gumtree, etc.). Regardless of the role performed, whether it be being a runner or harasser, opening a bank account, distributing pamphlets, acting as look-outs, these are criminal activities that are against the law and punishable with a hefty fine, jail term and possibly even caning.

### **Preventing yourself from becoming a Victim of Crime**

8 With the implementation of the COVID-19 circuit breaker measures, most physical shops are closed. As you spend more time at home and take to the internet more often, there is a need to **be careful when shopping online.** Carousell and Facebook are predominant platforms used for online purchase scams, whereby scammers often entice buyers to purchase items at very low prices, without any intention of delivering the items after receiving payments. Popular items include electronic gadgets such as mobile phones, Apple AirPods and game consoles such as the Nintendo Switch. In some cases, scammers even cheated victims into making multiple payments on false claims of customs/processing fees, securing better deals with bulk purchases, etc. Always be wary of people selling items at prices that sound too good to be true. Reduce your risks by purchasing only from authorized sellers, and opting for buyer protection by using in-built payment options that release payment to the seller only upon delivery.

9 **Be very careful of who you befriend online.** Exercise caution when corresponding with strangers online. Scammers may impersonate as your friend on social networking sites by hacking their account or creating a fake account using your friend's profile picture and details. Be wary especially towards people who ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. If you receive unexpected requests or offers from your social media contacts, verify if the account is legitimate by checking with your family and friends offline. Never give out your personal and bank account details, account passwords, and One-Time Password (OTP) to anyone, including family and friends. Banks or government agencies will never ask for your OTP.

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10 **Bear in mind that the party whom you are dealing with online is a stranger.** Although scammers may provide a copy of an Identification Card or Driver's license to gain your trust, it may not necessarily belong to the person that you are communicating with online. You may check the validity of the NRIC on ICA's iEnquiry portal at: <https://ienquiry.ica.gov.sg/mobile/vCheck.do>.

### Resources for Crime Prevention

11 The following provides more information on crime awareness and prevention:

- Sign up for the Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme to help advocate for a drug-free Singapore. For more information, follow us on CNB's social media handles @CNB.DrugFreeSG (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube) or contact us at: [cnb\\_preventive\\_education\\_unit@cnb.gov.sg](mailto:cnb_preventive_education_unit@cnb.gov.sg). You can also visit the CNB's website [www.cnb.gov.sg](http://www.cnb.gov.sg) for more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse.
- Please call the CNB hotline at 1800-325-6666 to report any cases of suspected drug and inhalant abuse.
- For anyone who wishes to seek help with addiction-related matters, please call the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at 6732 6837.
- For more information on crime prevention, visit the SPF's website at [www.spf.gov.sg](http://www.spf.gov.sg), SPF Facebook or NCPC's website at [www.ncpc.org.sg](http://www.ncpc.org.sg). Please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000, or submit the information online at [www.police.gov.sg/iwitness](http://www.police.gov.sg/iwitness) to report matters on gangs, unlicensed money lending or crimes. Please dial '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you are aware of any gang activities or anyone who wants to leave a gang, please advise him/her to seek assistance from the Secret Societies Branch at 6435 0000. You can also call the NCPC's X Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9-24-5664 (1800-X-AH-LONG) to report unlicensed money lending matters.
- For more information on scams, visit [www.scamalert.sg](http://www.scamalert.sg). You may also call the Anti-Scam Helpline at 1800-722-6688 to seek scam-related advice. Join the 'let's fight scams' campaign at [www.scamalert.sg/fight](http://www.scamalert.sg/fight) by signing up as an advocate to receive up-to-date messages and share them with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim of scam.

12 Thank you and stay safe.

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Yours faithfully,



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**Communications Division**  
**Central Narcotics Bureau**



**Mr Matthew Choo**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Crime Control Division**  
**Operations Department**  
**Singapore Police Force**



**Mr Tan Tin Wee**  
**Executive Director**  
**National Crime Prevention Council**



**Mr Sng Chern Hong**  
**Secretary**  
**National Council Against Drug Abuse**

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