

MEDIA STATEMENT

Date of Issue: 30 April 2020

FOUR IMH INPATIENTS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Four inpatients from an IMH acute ward have tested positive for COVID-19 on 28 April and 29 April.

The first patient is a 64-year-old man who was admitted to the ward on 19 April. He was subsequently moved to an isolation ward on 27 April when he developed fever and cough, and given a swab test. He tested positive on 28 April and is being treated at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID).

As a precautionary measure, IMH tested all remaining 34 patients staying in the same ward as well as staff who were caring for the patients in the ward. Three patients tested positive on 29 April.

The three patients are 49, 32 and 24 years old and were admitted to IMH on 16, 18 and 20 April 2020, respectively. As their symptoms are mild, they are currently being cared for at IMH in an isolation ward. Contact tracing for close contacts of these patients is on-going.

The remaining 31 patients who tested negative will continue to be monitored closely. Any patient who shows any early signs of illness will be transferred to an isolation room and given prompt medical attention.

IMH is managing the situation in consultation with MOH and NCID. As an additional precaution, IMH will be testing more inpatients and staff in the coming weeks.

This proactive and aggressive testing is to enable us to detect possible asymptomatic cases so that early steps can be taken to minimise further spread.

Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore, IMH has stepped up surveillance and infection control measures for visitors, patients, and staff. Measures for staff include twice-daily temperature taking, wearing the appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) at work and split team or modular work arrangements where feasible. Staff are regularly reminded not to come to work if they are unwell and to seek medical advice promptly. They also practice safe distancing and strict hand hygiene.

Inpatients' temperatures are monitored twice a day and nurses look out for signs of any illness, particularly typical Covid-19 symptoms. We also provide patient education to help patients understand the Covid-19 situation and the importance of personal hygiene and infection control.

For media queries, please contact:

Ms Quek Ai Choo
Email: [Ai_Choos_QUEK@imh.com.sg](mailto: Ai_Choos_QUEK@imh.com.sg)
DID: (65) 6389 2865 HP: (65) 93692729