

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

Date of Issue: 25 October 2021

### **COVID-19 CLUSTER IN IMH; HOSPITAL OPERATIONS REMAIN UNAFFECTED**

1. A COVID-19 cluster, comprising 116 cases (108 inpatients and 8 staff from both inpatient and outpatient settings), has emerged in IMH. The inpatient cases mostly come from three blocks in the hospital – Block 4, Block 5 and Block 6.
2. The cases were detected from the hospital’s surveillance tests for patients, or picked up because they developed respiratory symptoms during their stay. The majority of the cases are long-stay patients.
3. Patients with COVID-19 are separated and cared for in dedicated wards in IMH. Most of these patients are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms that do not warrant being transferred to acute hospitals. If their condition deteriorates, they will be transferred to the acute hospitals if necessary.
4. Admissions to the affected wards have been suspended, while patients who are fit for discharge will be able to go home after they test negative for COVID-19. Notwithstanding the COVID-19 cases, IMH will continue to provide good psychiatric care while ensuring the safety of our patients. The other wards in IMH, and clinical services such as its Outpatient Specialist Clinics, are unaffected and continue to admit/see patients.
5. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore, IMH has put in place strict surveillance and infection control measures for visitors, patients, and staff. These measures are adjusted according to the prevailing situation in the community, and adhere to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.
6. Patient-facing staff currently undergo Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) and wear N95 masks in clinical areas. They are regularly reminded not to come to work if they are unwell, and to seek medical advice promptly.
7. Inpatients are given swab tests before admission, and throughout their stay in IMH. They are also given masks to wear during their stay. Staff check patients’ temperatures twice a day and any patient with symptoms of illness are promptly isolated.
8. IMH has also offered COVID-19 vaccination to all its acute and long-stay inpatients, as well as outpatients. To date, more than 90% of the long-stay patients have been vaccinated. Booster vaccination for long-stay patients are also underway.

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## **About the Institute of Mental Health (IMH)**

The Institute of Mental Health (IMH), a member of the National Healthcare Group, is the only tertiary psychiatric care institution in Singapore. Located on the sprawling 23-hectare campus of Buangkok Green Medical Park in the north-eastern part of Singapore, IMH offers a multidisciplinary and comprehensive range of psychiatric, rehabilitative and therapy services in hospital-based and community-based settings. The 2,000-bedded hospital aims to meet the needs of three groups of patients – children and adolescents (aged below 19 years), adults and the elderly. Besides providing clinical services, IMH also leads in mental health research and training the next generation of mental health professionals in Singapore. For more information, please visit [www.imh.com.sg](http://www.imh.com.sg) or [www.facebook.com/imh.singapore](https://www.facebook.com/imh.singapore).