



14th APEC Women Leaders Network Meeting (WLN) ■ 4 – 5 August 2009
APEC Digital Economy Forum for Women (DEW) ■ 3 August 2009

17 July 2009

Dear DEW and WLN delegates,

HEALTH ADVISORY for 14th APEC WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK AND DIGITAL ECONOMY FORUM FOR WOMEN

Greetings from Singapore!

We are heartened by the support from all of you for the upcoming 14th APEC Women Leaders Network (WLN) meeting and Digital Economy Forum for Women (DEW).

As a lead-up to the meetings, we would like to share with you the H1N1 situation in Singapore and the precautionary measures which have been put in place to safeguard against the spread of the Influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus here.

In line with WHO advice, Singapore is in transition from the Containment Phase to the Mitigation Phase. The emphasis during the transition phase is on treating the infected person, especially those from the high-risk groups – young children, those with medical concerns and immuno-compromised patients. People with influenza-like illnesses (ILI) will be advised to seek medical attention at the nearest Pandemic Preparedness Clinic (PPC)¹. Those considered by the PPC doctor as high-risk patients may be referred to the hospital for H1N1 testing and further management. Contact tracing will generally be stepped down but may still be conducted if the circumstances warrant it, and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. The public has been advised to observe a high standard of personal hygiene at all times to break the cycle of transmission. You can also find more information on the H1N1 situation here at our Ministry of Health's website (www.moh.gov.sg).

We strive to ensure the safety of all our APEC participants and to minimise disruption to the proceedings. We have, therefore, put in place a set of precautionary measures:

¹ Pandemic Preparedness Clinics are primary healthcare providers that form a vital part of the Singapore Health Ministry's Flu Pandemic Response Framework. PPCs are supported with Personal Protection Equipment and Tamiflu from the national stockpile to help manage the flu outbreak in the community. PPCs have undergone the necessary training to enable them to manage both flu and patients with other health conditions.



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- An onsite Medical Centre will operate one hour before and one hour after the meetings. Delegates who are feeling unwell or exhibit ILI (e.g. fever, cough, sore-throat, runny nose) will be advised to consult the doctor at the onsite Medical Centre. Those with mild symptoms will be prescribed medication on a case-by-case basis, based on the clinical assessment of the doctor. They will be advised to rest in their hotel rooms, and will be provided with a flu kit consisting of a set of surgical masks, personal thermometer and hand sanitiser. If they have to leave their hotel rooms, they are advised to put on surgical face masks and avoid crowded places. Those diagnosed with H1N1 will not be issued with home quarantine orders, but will be advised to rest in their rooms and need not be sent to a hospital. Those diagnosed to be severe cases and requiring in-patient care will be referred to the hospital and advised to remain in the hospital until they are certified medically fit for discharge. Should the need arise, the onsite Medical Centre will advise on the locations of the nearest PPC.

We seek your understanding and co-operation in ensuring a safe and conducive environment for all, and hope you will enjoy your stay in Singapore.

Yours sincerely

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