

24 June 2021

Parents and Guardians of Primary School Students

Dear Parents/Guardians

RESUMPTION OF SCHOOL HEALTH AND DENTAL SERVICE PROGRAMMES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS DURING PHASE 3 (HEIGHTENED ALERT)

- 1 Health Promotion Board (HPB)'s School Health Service (SHS) and School Dental Service (SDS) were suspended from 19 May 2021 during Phase 2 (Heightened Alert, "HA").
- 2 SHS will gradually resume the school-based immunisation programme for students from 5 July 2021. In addition, screening will be conducted for Primary 2 students who did not undergo screening in 2020. Screening for other levels will resume in 2022.
Please provide consent for your child to receive the vaccination by accessing the Child Consent portal via this link <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg>.
- 3 Dental services will resume in Term 3 in a phased approach:
 - a. Students in schools with operating dental clinics who *require dental attention* may contact the dental clinic to request for an appointment.
 - b. Students with *dental emergencies* (e.g. severe pain affecting sleep, facial swelling due to dental infection, dental injury) in schools without operating dental clinics may call for an appointment to be seen at the School Dental Centre* in HPB

In the interim, please monitor your child for vision problems, hearing impairment and curved spine (scoliosis). Annex A provides information on these conditions and how you can make an appointment for your child to see a doctor and/or optometrist at Student Health Centre*.

- 4 Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries.

*Contact Details for Appointments and Enquiries

For **medical** enquiries, please contact:
Student Health Centre
DID: 6435 3895, Mondays - Fridays, 8am - 5pm
Email: HPB_SHC@hpb.gov.sg

For **dental** enquiries, please contact:
School Dental Centre
DID: 6435 3782, Mondays - Fridays, 8am - 5pm
Email: HPB_Dental_Counter@hpb.gov.sg

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Chow Khuan Yew
Senior Deputy Director
School Health Service

Dr Eu Oy Chu
Senior Deputy Director
School Dental Services

HEALTH CONDITIONS

WHAT PARENTS MAY OBSERVE

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

VISION PROBLEMS (MYOPIA)



- Blurred vision when looking at distant objects
- Headaches from eye strain
- Squinting/tilting the head to view distant objects
- Sitting close to the television/computer
- Holding a book close to the eyes when reading
- Rubbing eyes frequently



HEARING IMPAIRMENT

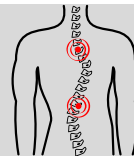


- Continually asks to repeat what was said
- Misunderstands or gives inappropriate responses to questions
- Likes the television volume to be turned up
- Watches a person's face for visual cues
- Has a speech delay or deteriorating speech



CURVED SPINE (SCOLIOSIS)

Examine back from behind with child upright and whole back bared. Child should not wear footwear.



- Asymmetry of body
- Curved spine with the body leaning to one side
- Uneven shoulder levels
- One shoulder blade is more visible than the other
- There is more space between the arms and trunk on one side of the body



WHAT TO DO

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD HAS VISION PROBLEMS:

For children P1 and younger, please contact the Student Health Centre at 6435 3895 for an appointment with our Optometrists. Children P2 and above can be brought to see a qualified community optometrist or optician for further assessment.

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR CHILD HAS HEARING PROBLEMS OR A CURVED SPINE:

Please contact the Student Health Centre at 6435 3895 for an appointment with our doctors. Alternatively, you may bring your child to see your family doctor.