

MEDIA STATEMENT

COVID-19 Cluster at Ren Ci @ Bukit Batok St. 52

1. Three staff from the same ward at Ren Ci @ Bukit Batok St. 52 (BBNH) experienced Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) symptoms on 12 September and they sought medical attention immediately. Upon notification of their positive Antigen Rapid Test (ART) results, the relevant ward was locked down. Surveillance swabbing using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests was then carried out for all nursing home residents and staff from the affected zone. The swab result as of 13 September morning showed that a total of 8 staff (including the three who went to the General Practitioner earlier) and 20 nursing home residents were infected with COVID-19.
2. The last rostered routine testing (RRT), a mandatory testing regime for frontline workers, was conducted on 7 September and all results were negative. All nursing home residents and the other 5 staff were asymptomatic prior to testing. Amongst the positive cases, only one resident is not vaccinated. Ren Ci has been actively vaccinating our eligible staff and residents. All staff and 95% of nursing home residents at BBNH are fully vaccinated.
3. Ren Ci's Chief Nurse, Mdm Jenny Sim Teck Meh, commented: "The recent spike in the community COVID-19 cases has been worrying. Our focus is to ensure our residents and staff continue to be well taken care of. Our immediate actions are geared towards containment and prevention of further spread within the affected zone as well as to trace the possible source of infection. We are also planning for our vaccinated seniors to receive booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccine in the coming week, to ensure a continued high level of immunity and protection."
4. The safety of our staff, residents and visitors remains our top priority. We are working closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) on all necessary follow-up. As of 5pm on 13 September, MOH has arranged for all infected residents to be transferred to the hospitals for closer monitoring of their health.
5. All visits to our nursing home are currently suspended from 13 September till 11 October, as advised by MOH on 12 September. This is necessary to protect the safety and well-being of our residents and staff. In the meantime, we will facilitate communication between all our residents and their loved ones through telephone and video calls. We have also deep cleaned and disinfected the affected ward and will be increasing our cleaning frequency during this period.
6. We understand that this development may concern many friends and supporters of Ren Ci. All of us in the Ren Ci family are committed and united in our continuous fight against this virus and we thank you for giving us the time and space as we give our utmost best during this period.

Ren Ci @ Bukit Batok St. 52

