Media Release

No new COVID-19 cases among CGH staff
Containment measures in place to keep staff and patients safe

Singapore, 28 June 2021 – Changi General Hospital (CGH) has actively implemented containment measures to keep its patients, visitors and staff safe. Measures have been stepped up since the first staff under the CGH cluster tested positive. To date, a total of eight CGH staff were confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, of which seven belong to the same cluster. The nurse is currently an unlinked case.

Early detection through proactive testing

Surveillance swab testing for healthcare workers is a key strategy to detect asymptomatic cases early and care for them. CGH has been proactively conducting Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) for its staff since May 2021.

Through the RRT, CGH was able to pick up the first staff, a porter, who was confirmed to have tested positive on 23 June 2021. The porter was asymptomatic and is fully vaccinated. Proactive swab testing efforts of his close contacts were immediately carried out by the Hospital, which enabled us to detect COVID-19 infections in six porters and a healthcare assistant over the next few days.

Proactive testing has not picked up any further staff cases to date.

Ring-fencing infections through stepped up measures

Active contact tracing and ongoing surveillance swab tests are in progress. Staff identified as close contacts have been placed on quarantine orders or on leave of absence pending further investigations. CGH is working closely with the Ministry of Health and epidemiological investigations are ongoing for the positive cases.

The Hospital has strengthened its defences to ring-fence the infections and measures are in place to keep our patients, visitors and staff safe. Infection control protocols have been activated and terminal cleaning has been carried out at affected areas.

The Hospital has also stepped up additional swab tests for its relevant staff, including staff who are identified as contacts and various groups such as porters, housekeepers and nurses, as part of enhanced proactive testing efforts. Patient-fronting staff who are already on RRT have also undergone an additional round of surveillance swab tests. More than 6,000 swab tests for staff have been conducted over the past week. The swab test results are negative to date.

As an added precautionary measure, all staff on CGH campus will undergo COVID-19 testing over the next few days.

Caring for our patients through enhanced precautions

We remain committed to caring for our patients. Additional surveillance swab tests for inpatients who are possible contacts of the staff cases are completed. We are on heightened clinical surveillance of all inpatients who may develop fever or acute respiratory infection (ARI) symptoms. All test results are negative for COVID-19.

Patients identified as contacts may be placed in isolation to continue their recuperation under quarantine, and visitors will not be allowed in these wards until further notice for their safety.

CGH visitation guidelines remain at one pre-registered visitor for the duration of their admission, and one visit by the visitor each day. Patients can also continue with their outpatient appointments at CGH.

Professor Ng Wai Hoe, Chief Executive Officer, CGH, said, "Our priority is the safety of our patients and colleagues, and immediate actions have been taken to ensure their well-being and minimise the risk of infection. Our affected colleagues are currently generally well or with mild symptoms and we will continue to support and care for them.

"We have also mobilised our patient relations and peer support officers to provide support to our patients and staff respectively, and will continue to care for all our patients. With the virus now being more transmissible than before, we seek the understanding from patients and visitors on these necessary measures to keep them and our staff safe, and thank them for their support during this difficult time."

The hospital is safe for clinical appointments and visitation, with adherence to existing visitation guidelines. CGH will continue to closely monitor the situation and review and reinforce current measures as the need arises to keep patients and staff safe.

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About Changi General Hospital

Changi General Hospital (CGH) is an academic medical institution caring for more than 1 million people in Singapore. A tertiary referral centre with over 1,000 beds, CGH is committed to medical research and education, clinical innovation and care for patients through a comprehensive range of medical specialties and services. Helmed by a multi-disciplinary, dedicated team of healthcare professionals, CGH consistently delivers positive health outcomes for patients. For more information, visit www.cgh.com.sg