

Home Team Connects

Connecting You with the Home Team

An initiative by the Home Team Volunteer Network



EDITOR'S PICK

OUR YEAR IN A REVIEW

Read more about how Home Team kept Singapore safe and secure in 2020! Don't forget to check out Our Year in Review [Part 2] to read about the Home Team Volunteers' involvement in packing of the Everyday Guardians Care Packs for the frontliners.



Links:

Part One >> <https://go.gov.sg/hometeam2020-1>

Part Two >> <https://go.gov.sg/hometeam2020-2>

HIGHLIGHTS

VACCINATIONS

On 11 January, MHA started the vaccination exercise for Home Team officers involved in frontline healthcare operations, with about 1,050 officers to be progressively vaccinated over the coming weeks.

Those who will be vaccinated include SCDF EMS officers, staff from the Home Team Medical Services Division and other frontline officers from ICA, SPF, HTX and SPS. This is in line with the Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination's recommendation for persons at risk of being infected by COVID-19, in particular healthcare workers and workers at the frontline of our national response, to be vaccinated first.



>> [Find out more in our photo feature on the first cohort of Home Team officers to receive vaccinations](#)

>> [Read the press release on the start of vaccination operations for the Home Team](#)



On 4th January, in response to a Parliamentary Question by Mr Christopher De Souza, MOS Desmond Tan shared that the Police are allowed to access TraceTogether data for criminal investigations, noting that stringent measures are also in place to safeguard this personal data.

>> [Read the oral reply by MOS Desmond Tan](#)

MIN Vivian Balakrishnan also clarified in Parliament that the data collected by TraceTogether would be used with the utmost restraint, while MIN K Shanmugam stated that the data would only be obtained for serious offences such as murder or terrorism.

>> [Read the CNA article on clarifications from MIN Balakrishnan and MIN Shanmugam](#)

SECOND READING

Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Bill

The Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Bill was passed in Parliament on Tuesday. The Bill will strengthen the regulatory regime to minimise the safety and security risks posed by Guns, Weapons and Explosives while ensuring a calibrated regulatory and enforcement framework for these items under the new Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Act 2021.

>> [Read the Second Reading Speech and Wrap-Up Speech by MOS Desmond Tan](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



- TraceTogether data is primarily used for contact tracing and for fighting COVID-19.
- Only authorised officers can access the data, which is used for authorised purposes and stored on a secured platform.
- Stringent measures are also in place to safeguard personal data.
- Police are empowered under the Criminal Procedure Code to obtain any data, not just from TraceTogether, for the purposes of criminal investigation.
- To protect the safety and security of Singaporeans, especially in serious cases where lives are at stake, Police must be given the tools to bring criminals to justice.

CAPTAIN OF LIVES

“I DID IT!”



Expelled from school in Secondary 2, “Ahmad” spent his teenage years in the chaotic world of drugs and gangs. But these days, he’s very far from who he was as a youth. Now 36, Ahmad is one of this year’s top performers in Prison School, scoring all A’s and a B for his GCE O-Level examination.

>> [Read Ahmad’s story at: go.gov.sg/sps-ahmad2021](#)

The last time that “Anna” broke down was in 2016 when her lawyer advised her that she faced close to 20 years behind bars for her crimes. This week, Anna, 29, wiped away tears once again.

But this time, she did so while holding her GCE O-Level certificate displaying straight A's, making her this year's top inmate student. After Anna returned to her cell, she wrote "I did it!" in her diary.



>> Read Anna's story at: go.gov.sg/sps-anna2021



HOME TEAM ROUND-UP

KEEPING SINGAPORE SAFE AND SECURE



Their work is challenging, but their spirits remain high! Over the New Year period, MIN K Shanmugam, 2MIN Josephine Teo, MOS Faishal Ibrahim and MOS Desmond Tan visited various Home Team units to meet our officers on duty and convey their appreciation for their hard work. Thank you, Guardians!



>> For more photos from the ground, check out:

- MIN Shanmugam's visit to Ang Mo Kio Division and Yishun South NPC: go.gov.sg/min-visit-1jan2021
- 2MIN Josephine Teo's visit to Transcom: go.gov.sg/2min-visit-1jan2021
- MOS Faishal Ibrahim's visit to ProCom and Yishun Fire Station: go.gov.sg/mosfaishal-visit-1jan2021
- MOS Desmond Tan's visit to Sengkang Fire Station: go.gov.sg/mostan-visit-1jan2021



On New Year's Day (from top): MIN with officers at Ang Mo Kio Division; 2MIN speaking to TransCom officers; MOS Faishal Ibrahim with SCDF officers at Yishun Fire Station; and MOS Desmond Tan engaging with SCDF officers at Sengkang Fire Station.

ONLINE INDUSTRY SAFETY AND SECURITY WATCH GROUP

The Online Industry Safety and Security Watch Group (iSSWG) was launched by MOS Desmond Tan on 6 January.

A partnership between SPF and the Asia Internet Coalition, the Online iSSWG serves as a new platform for the Home Team and our industry stakeholders to address safety and security concerns online.



Efforts to counter the threat posed by online crime (such as scams) and terrorism will be done through:

- **Promoting greater exchange** of information to fight crime and counter the threat of terrorism online
- **Enhancing public awareness** of common scam tactics and cyber safety
- **Encouraging sharing** of expertise and best practices to strengthen the security of online platforms
- **Supporting the development** of guidelines, frameworks or industry standards to create safe online communities

“The Online iSSWG will **further strengthen the efforts of online players** (such as Facebook and Google), to combat online scams and security threats. Collectively, these measures will benefit not only the users, but also **enhance the trust** users have in the industry.”

– MOS Desmond Tan

>> [Read the speech by MOS Tan](#)

AED-ON-WHEELS PROGRAMME

On 28 January, MOS Faishal Ibrahim launched the AED-on-Wheels Programme which will equip 50 Grab private hire vehicles with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Grab has also installed first aid kits and fire extinguishers in these vehicles.



The programme is the third such AED-on-Wheels collaboration between SCDF and its partners. Speaking at the launch of the programme, MOS Faishal shared that the Grab driver-partners (together with 50 GrabFood riders) have learnt crucial lifesaving skills through SCDF’s Community Emergency Preparedness Programme. This will allow driver-partners and riders to better render timely assistance during emergencies.



MOS Faishal also presented SCDF’s Community Lifesaver Award to the GrabFood riders and Town Council workers who helped fight a residential fire in November 2020. Commending them for their efforts, MOS Faishal encouraged others to step forward as well, in order to achieve SCDF’s vision of a Nation of Lifesavers.

“Every response matters, even if it is performing simple tasks like guiding emergency responders to the casualty or helping to retrieve an AED.” – MOS Faishal Ibrahim

>> [Read MOS Faishal’s speech at the launch of the AED-on-Wheels Programme between SCDF and Grab](#)

GUARDIANS OF OUR HOME

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Tham Yining
Lead Psychologist
Singapore Police Force

Get the low-down on the multifaceted work of a Home Team Psychologist.
BY ASHLEY TUEN

4-MIN READ
go.gov.sg/spf-careers-yining

GUARDIANS OF OUR HOME

**Harith Shah
Bin Roslan**

Crime Scene Specialist
Home Team Science
and Technology Agency



From combing a crime scene to dusting for fingerprints in a lab, HTX Crime Scene Specialists support Police investigations through the application of S&T.

BY SHAFIQ GUEE



4-MIN READ
[go.gov.sg/
htx-careers-
harith](https://go.gov.sg/htx-careers-harith)

#SGSECURE #STAYUNITED

DETENTION OF RADICALISED YOUTH BY ISD

On 28th January, MIN K Shanmugam and MOS Faishal Ibrahim visited Yusof Ishak Mosque in Woodlands to meet with religious leaders and share a message of common resolve against the threat of terrorism, following ISD's statement on 27 January that a Singaporean youth had been detained for planning to attack two mosques on the anniversary of the terrorist attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand.

MIN Shanmugam and MOS Faishal met with Reverend Keith Lai (President of the National Council of Churches of Singapore), Dr Nazirudin Nasir (Mufti of Singapore), Mr Esa Masood (Chief Executive of MUIS), HJ Izuan (Chairman of Assyafaah Mosque) and HJ Khalid Shukur (Chairman of Yusof Ishak Mosque), among many other religious leaders.

Noting that many religious organisations in Singapore had issued strong statements against the planned attacks, MIN Shanmugam affirmed that, "We are one people [and] I was very heartened by the statements issued... What we have in Singapore is quite unique. The spirit of religious harmony in Singapore is precious, and must be protected."



"The religious leaders have sent a message to all Singaporeans that religion stands for peace. We are free to practise our faiths. We don't attack each other." – MIN K Shanmugam

"It has been shared many times, but we can't say it enough – Singapore's social fabric is made up of different religions and races, and we have built a harmonious society over many decades, through mutual understanding and respect." – MOS Faishal Ibrahim

>> [Watch a video of MIN Shanmugam's statement on the case](#)

>> [Read about the visit to Yusof Ishak Mosque by MIN Shanmugam and MOS Faishal](#)

UPDATES ON COVID

VACCINATING OUR POPULATION

On 4th January, MIN Gan Kim Yong delivered a Ministerial Statement on the Whole-of-Government response to COVID-19. MIN Gan provided an updated on the global COVID-19 situation, Singapore's vaccination plans and the prioritisation of population sub-groups. Here are some of the key points from the Ministerial Statement:

- Vaccination is a critical shield to protect us and our loved ones against COVID-19, even as the global situation remains volatile.
- The Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination (which comprises professionals in infectious diseases, immunology and other relevant fields) has studied the data on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, reviewed the reports from HSA and deliberated at length.
- The Committee has concluded that the vaccine meets the safety and efficacy requirements of the World Health Organization and other international regulatory authorities, as well as that of HSA.

The Committee also recommends that everyone who is medically eligible should be vaccinated so that Singapore can achieve as high a level of vaccination coverage as possible. The Government has accepted these recommendations in full.



“Vaccinations will be a **key enabler** for us to return to normalcy. I **strongly encourage all Singaporeans** and long-term residents to get vaccinated when the vaccine is offered to you, to protect yourselves and your loved ones... Let's all do our part, so that we can overcome and emerge stronger.”

– MIN Gan Kim Yong, 4 January 2021

- >> [Read the Ministerial Statement](#)
- >> [Find out more about the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine](#)

SINGAPORE'S COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



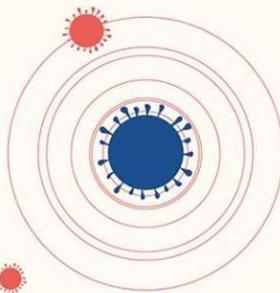
Why is vaccination important?

Vaccination can help:

— protect our loved ones and the community from COVID-19

— enable us to resume more activities, and Singapore to re-open safely, sooner

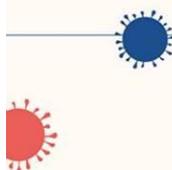
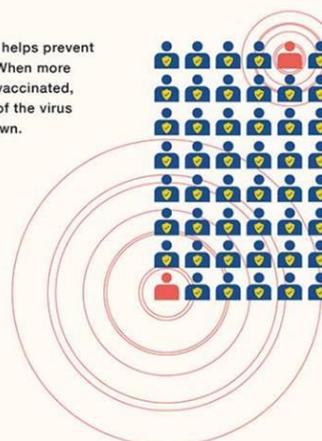
— prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed



“ When you get yourself vaccinated, you are not just protecting yourself. You are also doing your part to protect others, especially your loved ones. The more of us are vaccinated, the harder it will be for the virus to spread, and the safer we will all be as a society. ”

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

Vaccination helps prevent COVID-19. When more people are vaccinated, the spread of the virus will slow down.



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that can be spread by droplets of saliva or mucus from coughing, sneezing - in the air or on surfaces.

Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose or loss of smell or taste.

Seniors or people with underlying health problems may develop serious illness when infected with COVID-19.



Who can be vaccinated?

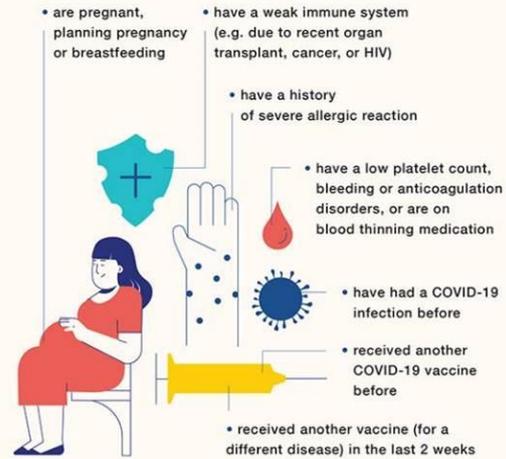
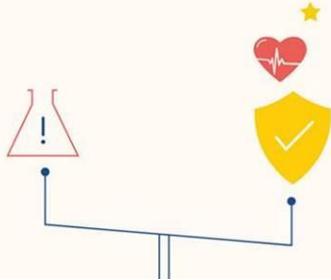
Vaccination is free for Singaporeans and long-term residents.

A healthcare professional will be able to advise if you should get vaccinated. Tell your doctor or nurse about your medical conditions before getting the vaccine, especially if you –

Is the vaccine safe?

COVID-19 vaccines approved for pandemic use in Singapore meet safety and efficacy standards, with benefits outweighing known risks.

Approval was given only after both the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and the Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination had thoroughly reviewed clinical data for the vaccines.



How to get vaccinated

Everyone will be invited to be vaccinated progressively. When it is your turn, you will receive a notification to schedule an appointment. You will also be provided a step-by-step guide on how you can make an appointment. Vaccination is by appointment only.

As vaccines will come in batches, healthcare workers and vulnerable groups (seniors, those in high-risk industries) will be given priority for vaccination.



What should I do if I suffer from any side effects?

You may experience pain, redness and swelling at the injection site. You may also experience some common side effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. This is similar to other vaccines. Most side effects are mild and you will get better within a few days.

Some common side effects include fever, headache and muscle ache. **If you are affected, you may take 1 -2 paracetamol tablets every 6 hours as needed.** If your symptoms persist, please see a doctor.

After vaccination, you should remain at the clinic for 30 minutes for observation.

In very rare cases, this vaccine can cause a severe allergic reaction. Symptoms can include difficulty breathing, swelling of your face, throat, eyes or lips, fast heartbeat, dizziness and weakness, or a bad rash. If you experience a severe allergic reaction, seek medical attention immediately. Call 995 or go to the nearest A&E.

For more information, visit vaccine.gov.sg, or call 1800-333-9999.



Published by



January 2021

STAY CONNECTED AND ENGAGED:

SGUnited – Stay Engaged

Includes resources on how to thrive, stay connected with loved ones, help others and get help.

ON THE INTERNET: www.SGUnited.gov.sg

National CARE Hotline

24-hr hotline with psychologists, counsellors, social workers, psychiatrists and public officers manning lines: **6202-6868**

RESOURCES:

>> COVID-19 online symptom checker: www.sgcovidcheck.gov.sg

>> MOH COVID-19 hotline: 1-800-333-9999



The Beginning

Those were the days of bell bottoms, The Beatles, and a newly independent Singapore.

Apart from the literally "old-school" opium addicts in their dens, new, fashionable, 'hippie' drugs like MX, ganja (cannabis, or weed), and heroin, were beginning to take hold among a new generation of addicts. It was against this backdrop, that a new specialised force of drug busters was created. On 12 Nov 1971, the Central Narcotics Bureau, or CNB, was created.

The CNB's mission was to ensure constant, persistent and thorough action to prevent, detect and suppress drug activities and the traffic of drugs into Singapore. The CNB would also go on to educate the public on the dangers of drug abuse.



Thus began the journey of a special group of dedicated officers who responded to the calling to fight the drug menace in Singapore, 50 years ago.

IN 2021, CNB WILL CELEBRATE ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY. TO MARK THE OCCASION, THE BUREAU WILL BE PUBLISHING A SHORT SERIES OF STORIES ABOUT THE ORGANISATION, ITS WORK AND ITS PEOPLE. WE HOPE YOU WILL ENJOY THE STORIES. TOWARDS A #DRUGFREESG.

Have a story to share? Connect with Us



One Home, One Team – Together We Keep Our Home Safe and Secure

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