



Dear Students,

ADVISORY FOR THE COMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With the November/December school holidays approaching, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would like to remind students of the dire consequences of committing crime and drug/inhalant abuse, as well as to take measures to avoid being victims of crime.

Drug and Inhalant Abuse Situation

2 In 2019, thirty-nine percent (1,369) of all drug abusers arrested were below the age of 30. In terms of new abusers, there were 1,460 arrested in 2019, of which close to 62% (903) were below the age of 30. **Students should be mindful that the possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.**

3 **Staying away from drug and inhalant abuse.** Abusing drugs and inhalants can cause harm and permanent damage to your health and body. Pursue a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Indulge in healthy activities and/or hobbies during this period to enrich your life and develop greater mental and physical resilience.

4 **Keeping watch – online drug activities.** CNB monitors online drug activities, and has taken action against those who order drugs / drug paraphernalia online, or have drugs delivered by post or courier. CNB will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in illegal drug activities.

Do not get involved in Crime

5 **Do not attempt to steal goods from places such as shopping malls, supermarkets, or minimarts.** Shop theft is an offence that can result in criminal records. Similarly, it is against the law to commit theft at common areas such as bicycle parking bays, void decks and carparks.

6 **Do not attempt to cheat others through online platforms such as Carousell, Shopee, Lazada and Instagram.** It is against the law to commit cheating offences; more students have been apprehended for online purchase scams where victims did not receive the promised goods after making payments. The offence carries a jail term or a fine or both.

7 **Stay away from disputes or confrontations, amongst your friends, classmates and strangers.** Disputes and heated arguments can often lead to fights or assaults that may result in severe injuries for both parties. When hanging out in groups, always be reminded to steer clear from conflicts. Offenders liable for serious offences such as **rioting** and **unlawful assembly** can be punished with a jail term, hefty fine, or even caning. It is also an offence to be a member of a gang.

8 Always be attentive to your surroundings, especially when you are in a crowded space (e.g. in a bus or MRT). Move away immediately and do not hesitate to seek help from others if someone gets too close to you or touch you. Keep in mind that **outrage of modesty is a serious offence** and offenders may be punished with imprisonment, or with fine, or with caning.

9 **Always be cautious with part-time jobs offered to you, especially those promising quick and easy money.** Students have been recruited for unlicensed moneylending activities through job advertisements online (e.g. Facebook, Carousell, Gumtree, etc.). Regardless of the role performed, whether it be being a runner or harasser, opening a bank account, distributing pamphlets, acting as look-outs, these are criminal activities that are against the law and punishable with a hefty fine, jail term and even caning.

Preventing yourself from becoming a Victim of Crime

10 **Always take care of your personal belongings, stay alert to your surroundings, and avoid uncomfortable situations with strangers.** Where possible, arrange for an adult family member or trusted friend to escort you home when returning alone late at night. If you suspect that you are being followed, remain calm and proceed to a crowded area, or call the Police for assistance.

11 **Be careful when shopping online.** Carousell and Facebook are predominant platforms used for online purchase scams, whereby scammers often entice buyers to purchase items at very low prices, without any intention of delivering the items after receiving payments. Popular items include Universal Studio Singapore (USS)/concert tickets, and electronic gadgets. In some cases, scammers even cheated victims into making multiple payments on false claims of customs/processing fees, securing better deals with bulk purchases, etc. Always be wary of people selling items at prices that sound too good to be true. Reduce your risks by purchasing only from authorized sellers, and paying only upon receiving your item.

12 **Be very careful of who you befriend online.** Exercise caution when corresponding with strangers online. Scammers may impersonate as your friend on social networking sites by hacking their account or creating a fake account using your friend's profile picture and details. Be wary especially towards people who ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. Information such as phone numbers, PIN numbers and one-time passwords (OTPs), can be used to make online purchases without your consent. If you are meeting an online friend in person for the first time, always make sure that you have a trusted friend or family member around. Do not allow yourself to be coerced into uncomfortable or compromising situations.

13 **Bear in mind that the party whom you are dealing with online is a stranger.** Although scammers may provide a copy of an Identification Card or Driver's license to gain your trust, it may not necessarily belong to the person that you are communicating with online. You may check the validity of the NRIC on ICA's iEnquiry portal at:

<https://eservices.ica.gov.sg/ipienquiry/web/ichack/landing>

Resources for Crime Prevention

14 The following provides more information on crime awareness and prevention:

- Sign up for the Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme to help advocate for a drug-free Singapore. For more information, follow us on CNB's social media handles @CNB.DrugFreeSG (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube) or contact us at: cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg. You can also visit the CNB's website www.cnb.gov.sg for more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse.
- Please call the CNB hotline at 1800-325-6666 to report any cases of suspected drug and inhalant abuse.
- For anyone who wishes to seek help with addiction-related matters, please call the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at 6732 6837.
- For more information on crime prevention, visit the SPF's website at www.spf.gov.sg, SPF Facebook or NCPC's website at www.ncpc.org.sg. Please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000, or submit the information online at www.police.gov.sg/iwitness to report matters on gangs, unlicensed money lending or crimes. Please dial '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you are aware of any gang activities or anyone who wants to leave a gang, please advise him/her to seek assistance from the Secret

Societies Branch at 6435 0000. You can also call the NCPC's X Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9-24-5664 (1800-X-AH-LONG) to report unlicensed money lending matters.

- For more information on scams, visit www.scamalert.sg. You may also call the Anti-Scam Helpline at 1800-722-6688 to seek scam-related advice. Join the 'let's fight scams' campaign at www.scamalert.sg/fight by signing up as an advocate to receive up-to-date messages and share them with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim of scam.

15 Thank you and happy holidays.

Yours faithfully,



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