

MEDIA RELEASE

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PASIR PANJANG WHOLESALE CENTRE FOR DEEP CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) will be closing the Pasir Panjang Wholesale Centre (PPWC) for 3 days from Monday, 27 September at 3pm to carry out deep cleaning and disinfection, after COVID-19 cases were detected amongst persons working at and visiting the premises. PPWC will reopen on Thursday, 30 September at 3pm.

2 Approximately 30% and 50% of Singapore's fruits and vegetables imports are handled at PPWC respectively. While there will be some disruption to fruits and vegetables supply, this will be only for a very short period as fruits and vegetables stalls at wet markets are usually closed on Mondays. SFA is working closely with stakeholders, such as fruits and vegetables associations, affected merchants, as well as importers and retailers, to minimise the impact on our food supply from the temporary closure of PPWC. Major supermarkets are also making efforts to increase their stocks of fruits and vegetables.

3 Deep cleaning and disinfection will be conducted at PPWC during the short closure. SFA will enhance the Safe Management Measures (SMMs) at PPWC prior to its reopening on 30 September 2021. We are also increasing the frequency of testing for all persons working at PPWC, from a 14-day regime to a 7-day regime. The On-Arrival-Testing for trade visitors will continue. All tenants and workers will also be tested before they return to PPWC.

4 We urge consumers not to rush to purchase fruits and vegetables during this period and they should only buy what they need. Singapore currently imports food from more than 170 countries/regions. To ensure the resilience of our food supply, we have adopted a multi-pronged strategy including import diversification, growing overseas and local production. While there may be temporary disruptions to the supply of food during the pandemic, our supply of food is stable.

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5 Members of the public are advised to continue to observe SMMs and maintain good personal hygiene when visiting premises, including wet markets, hawker centres and coffee shops.

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