



Dear Students,

ADVISORY FOR THE COMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With the upcoming mid-year school holidays, 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 you of the 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 2021, thirty-three percent (912) of all drug abusers arrested were young abusers below the age of 30. Out of these 912 young abusers, sixty-two percent (561) of them were new abusers. **You should be mindful that the possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.**

3 **Stay away from drug and inhalant abuse.** Abusing drugs and inhalants is dangerous. These substances are harmful and can cause permanent damage to your health and body. Do not allow yourself to be pressured into trying drugs. Walk away if anyone tries to offer you drugs.

4 **Stay away from drugs even when you are overseas.** Drug consumption is an offence regardless of where they are consumed. Singaporeans and Permanent Residents who are found to have consumed controlled drugs outside Singapore will be liable for drug consumption offence as if the offence has been committed in Singapore.

5 **Do not get involved in online drug activities.** CNB monitors online drug activities, and has taken action against those who order drugs / drugs paraphernalia online, or have drugs

delivered by post or courier. CNB will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in illegal drug activities.

6 **Always exercise caution on the Internet and social media.** The Internet and social media often have misinformation about drugs and mislead people into thinking that drugs are not that harmful and addictive. Do not be misled into buying or trying drugs online.

7 **Beware of drugs that may be disguised as food.** These products are made to appear less harmful and entice more people into taking drugs. They are illegal in Singapore, and it is also against the law to consume them. Drugs are addictive and harmful. Do not consume anything unknown to you or offered to you by strangers. When in doubt, approach your teachers or parents.

Stay away from Crime

8 Recently, there has been a rise in the number of youths involved in cheating and related offences. For example, youths acted as money mules for scammers in exchange for commission or revealed their Singpass login details to scammers in exchange for quick cash. The Police would like to urge you to **be more discerning with regards to job offers**, especially those that seem too good to be true with the promise of quick and easy money, or that require the handover of your bank and/or Singpass accounts. When in doubt, consult your parents and/or a trusted adult in school.

9 **Always pay for your items from places such as shopping malls, supermarkets, and retail stores.** Shop theft is an offence that can result in criminal records.

10 **Do not attempt to cheat others on online platforms.** It is against the law to commit cheating offences, be it through online platforms, or misusing others' bank or identification cards. In the past year, more students have been apprehended for such offences for easy money. Cheating carries a jail term and/or a fine.

11 **Remember to steer clear from disputes or confrontations, amongst your friends, classmates, and strangers.** If you do need to go out during this period, always be mindful to steer clear from conflicts and do not carry any sharp or dangerous weapons. Disputes and heated arguments can often lead to fights or assaults that may result in severe injuries for both parties. Offenders liable for serious offences such as affray and unlawful assembly can be punished with a jail term, hefty fine, or even caning. In addition, joining a gang is a crime and members of any unlawful societies can be arrested and sentenced to imprisonment.

12 **Insulting the modesty of others is an offence.** Do not film others in toilets or the shower, or take upskirt photos or videos.

13 **Vaping at any age, and underaged smoking are illegal.** All e-cigarettes, cigarettes and other types of vaporisers are harmful and can adversely affect your health and families. Youths who are caught using or possessing such products will be reported to the Health Sciences Authority and disciplinary actions will be taken.

Preventing yourself from becoming a Victim of Crime

14 **Be very careful of who you talk to online or when you receive unsolicited messages from strangers on Telegram or WhatsApp.** Scammers may offer you fake jobs that appear lucrative and involve easy tasks, such as purchasing movie tickets or giving online travel reviews. Scammers may also list such “job offerings” on e-commerce platforms such as Carousell, or on online platforms such as Gumtree or Facebook. They may impersonate as your friend on social networking sites by hacking into your friend’s account or creating a fake account using your friend’s profile picture and details. Be wary of people especially if they ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. A common modus operandi by scammers is to impersonate government authorities such as the Police or ICA to ask for your personal, bank and Singpass details including **one-time passwords (OTPs)** and login credentials. With the information provided, they can be used to make online purchases without your consent or undertake transactions in your name.

15 **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.

16 **Be careful when shopping online.** Carousell and Facebook are predominant platforms used for online purchase scams. Look out for deals that are way below market-priced disguised as limited-time-only or flash deals, such as gadgets or items that are priced much lower than usual. Many people have been cheated after falling for deals that are too good to be true, usually on online platforms. Scammers would induce victims to make money transfers first, after which goods will not be received. Popular items include electronic gadgets such as game consoles, handphones and graphic cards. 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. Reduce your risks by purchasing only from authorised sellers and use the platform’s secure payment option.

Resources on Crime Prevention and Staying Drug-Free

17 The following provides more information on crime prevention and staying drug-free:

- 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.police.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. Be our advocate by sharing the latest scam alerts you receive on NCPC ScamAlert Telegram channel (<https://t.me/ncpcscamalert>) with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim of scam.

18 Thank you and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



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