

# Improving migrant workers' welfare

On-site remittance services, medical posts at recreation centres and free access to Tamil and Hindi movies - these are part of efforts by an inter-agency task force to improve the welfare of foreign workers in dormitories, who have been hard hit by the coronavirus. **Lim Min Zhang** details some of these measures.

## TAKING CARE OF BASIC NEEDS

More than  
**10 million**

meals catered for dorm residents in the past four weeks. Taste tests done with workers from different countries, and chef visits conducted to better understand their preferences.

- Residents can make online orders to mini-mart operators in dorms.
- More employers now pay salaries electronically, with 10 per cent increase in bank account applications from pre-circuit breaker period.
- Remittance services arranged for residents, including temporary manned remittance booths and self-service kiosks, and guidance on using e-remittance in workers' native languages.

More than  
**200,000**

SIM cards distributed, with Wi-Fi access enabled across dorms.

Free access to more than  
**300** Tamil and Hindi movie channels.

More than  
**410,000**

care packs - containing items like thermometers, hand sanitisers, and masks - distributed.



Residents of Westlite Papan doing groceries shopping at a shop located within the dorm.

## MORE MEDICAL SUPPORT AND TESTING



Residents of Westlite Papan dormitory getting swab tests on April 21.

More than  
**25,000**

foreign workers tested so far, with focus on essential workers, those who have symptoms, and close contacts of confirmed cases.

- Sampling tests being done in areas with lower numbers to determine infection rates.
- Medical posts set up at Kranji and Tuas South recreation centres to support the healthcare needs of workers living in factory-converted dorms.

The medical posts set up at Kranji and Tuas South recreation centres have seen more than

**750**

patients since mid-April. Two more - at Woodlands and Kaki Bukit recreation centres - will be set up next week.

The four posts will together serve

**760** factory-converted dorms, housing around  
**65,000**

workers.

**12** mobile medical teams, made up of more than 50 medical personnel, deployed to factory-converted dorms with more cases.

- Free transport soon for workers in factory-converted dorms to visit medical posts, public health preparedness clinics, or polyclinics.

## HOUSING INFECTED AND RECOVERED WORKERS

- Community care facilities to be set up within the dorms, to house patients who are clinically well or have mild symptoms.
- The patients will be transferred to these places quickly after diagnosis, instead of an off-site facility.
- Similarly, on-site community recovery facilities will be set up for patients who are transferred out of community care facilities and are no longer infectious.
- Specific blocks in dorms will be designated for workers who have recovered. These will be disinfected before they move in.
- Workers there will have to follow strict safe distancing measures, and will not be allowed to interact with residents of other blocks.
- Short-term accommodation being arranged for those who have recovered, such as in cruise ships and sports halls. New dorms will also be built for them.



Communal living at Sungei Tengah Lodge.