

Transporting samples around the world

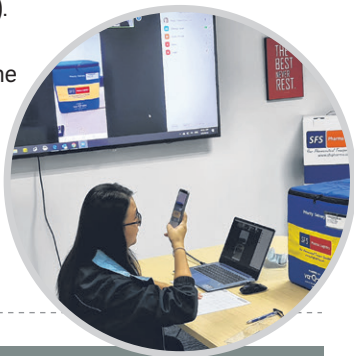
How are logistics firms in Singapore aiding in the global fight against Covid-19? The Straits Times takes a look at how SFS Pharma Logistics, a local logistics player, transports pre-clinical vaccine trial samples from the United States to Singapore, as researchers around the world work together to find a cure for the coronavirus.

DAY 1 APRIL 6, LOS ANGELES TIME

- 1 SFS receives a notification for the incoming shipment of pre-clinical vaccine trial samples, which will be ready for collection on April 10. It makes a booking for the shipment on board a Korean Air flight (KE0214) for April 10 for two packages weighing about 60kg in total.
- 2 It informs Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore of the shipment details, and checks that all relevant documents, such as the safety data sheet and import licence from National Parks Board's Animal and Veterinary Service, are valid.

DAY 5 APRIL 10, LOS ANGELES TIME (APRIL 11, SINGAPORE TIME)

- 1 SFS collects and packs the samples at the shipper's San Diego facility, with dry ice and temperature loggers. Export documents are processed before the two packages are transferred to the airline at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).
- 2 SFS receives pre-alert shipping documents from the US and submits the pre-Customs declaration with relevant documents and valid import licences.



An SFS Pharma Logistics employee communicating with partners in the US on details for tracking the shipment of pre-clinical vaccine trial samples.

DAY 6 APRIL 11, LOS ANGELES TIME

Cargo Flight KE0214 departs LAX for South Korea's Incheon International Airport (ICN).

DAY 7 APRIL 12, SEOUL TIME

KE0214 arrives at ICN. Packages are transferred to KE8353 bound for Singapore, which departs 15 hours later.



The packages containing the pre-clinical vaccine trial samples are loaded into a van for delivery to Duke-NUS Medical School.

DAY 8 APRIL 13, SINGAPORE TIME

- 1 KE8353 arrives at Changi Airport after a 6½-hour flight around 5am.
- 2 SFS receives notification that the cargo is ready for retrieval around 2.30pm and picks up the packages about half an hour later.
- 3 Upon retrieval of packages, SFS staff replenish the dry ice (about 10kg for each package) before proceeding to the Customs checkpoint for the cargo to be processed.
- 4 After Customs processing, the shipment is delivered to Duke-NUS around 4pm.

Time taken from collection of packages to delivery

62 hours