

SPECIAL CARE KIT

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS FOR COVID-19

INTRODUCTION

In this current pandemic situation, there are vulnerable populations who may be suspected of or diagnosed with COVID-19. Given that it can be an anxiety-inducing experience for individuals with special needs as well as their caregivers, they may require additional support to understand what is happening or is going to happen to them. This will help the individuals cooperate and cope better with the procedures of testing, diagnosis and treatment. On the other hand, frontline healthcare workers may not have the experience and know-how in managing these individuals. This can also increase their stress in an already demanding work environment for the healthcare workers.

This set of materials aim to provide support for the individuals with special needs who have to go through COVID-19 procedures. Clinical staff will also be able to use the materials to better communicate with and manage individuals with special needs presenting in their care, from the PHPCs, to ambulance staff, emergency rooms, and admission in the isolation wards. The materials are visually-enhanced, which can be used for individuals with special needs, intellectual disabilities, or any person who have limited communication and language ability to interact with the clinical staff.

We hope these materials can not only support the vulnerable populations during the COVID-19 pandemic, but also become a resource for the different agencies/organisations beyond the current situation, as we strive to build an inclusive society.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These resources are put together with support from the Ministry of Health (MOH) in collaboration with the following organisations:



HOW TO USE

Individuals with special needs may require additional support to understand what is happening around them.

For clinical staff

Provide support to the individual suspected with COVID-19 by:

1. Checking in with the caregiver about the level of understanding of the individual with special needs.
2. Using one of the social boards/stories to explain what is happening. Choose the relevant material based on the individual's ability to understand. Make copies for the individual to refer to if necessary.
3. Helping the individual reduce anxiety by using the visual cards.

Do:

- a. Speak slowly and calmly
- b. Use simple words
- c. Allow time for the individual to respond
- d. Enlist the help of the caregiver when necessary
- e. Note: Some individuals may need to hold on to a preferred object to calm down.

For caregiver

1. Support your child by completing the "About Me" form and pass a copy of the form to the doctor/nurse. You may want to prepare a few copies to pass to the different people who may be supporting your child such as the PHPC staff, ambulance staff, emergency staff and the ward staff.
2. Inform the clinic/ambulance staff that your child has special needs.
3. Use the social story/board to explain to your child what is happening
4. Use any visuals that your child is familiar with in addition to the suggested visuals provided.

SPECIAL CARE KIT

Resources to support individuals with special needs for COVID-19

Visual instructions to help the individual relax and stay calm

RELAXATION EXERCISES TO HELP THE INDIVIDUAL TO REDUCE ANXIETY:

- DEEP BREATHING
- HAPPY THOUGHTS
- MUSCLE RELAXATION

Helping the individual to understand what is going to happen/is happening

VISUAL SCHEDULE – FROM CLINIC TO HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

SOCIAL STORY – FROM CLINIC TO HOSPITAL

Information sheet for caregiver to complete and pass to clinical staff to help clinical staff understand and support the individual

ABOUT ME – INFORMATION OF INDIVIDUAL



From PHPC/Clinics and Ambulances

RELAXATION EXERCISE: DEEP BREATHING

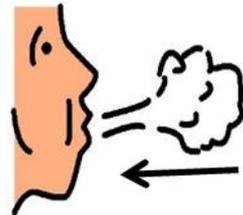
Step 1:



Good Sitting Posture

Sit up and put your feet on the floor.

Step 2:



Take A Deep Breath

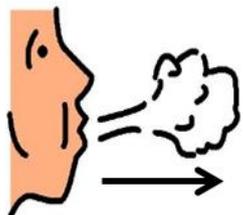
Step 3:



Hold Your Breath

Count to 4 quietly in your head.

Step 4:



**Breathe Out From
Your Mouth**

Count to 4 quietly in your head.

Step 5: Repeat 5 times

RELAXATION EXERCISE: HAPPY THOUGHTS

Step 1:



**Good Sitting
Posture**

Sit up and put your feet on the floor.

Step 2:



**Think Happy
Thoughts**

Think about something you really like.

RELAXATION EXERCISE: MUSCLE RELAXATION

Step 1:



Good Sitting Posture

Sit up and put your feet on the floor.

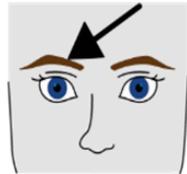
Step 2:



**Clench Your Hands
And Arms**

Count to 10, then relax.

Step 3:



**Raise Your Eyebrows
As High As You Can**

Count to 10, then relax.

Step 4:



**Stretch Your Legs And
Point Your Toes Up**

Count to 10, then relax.

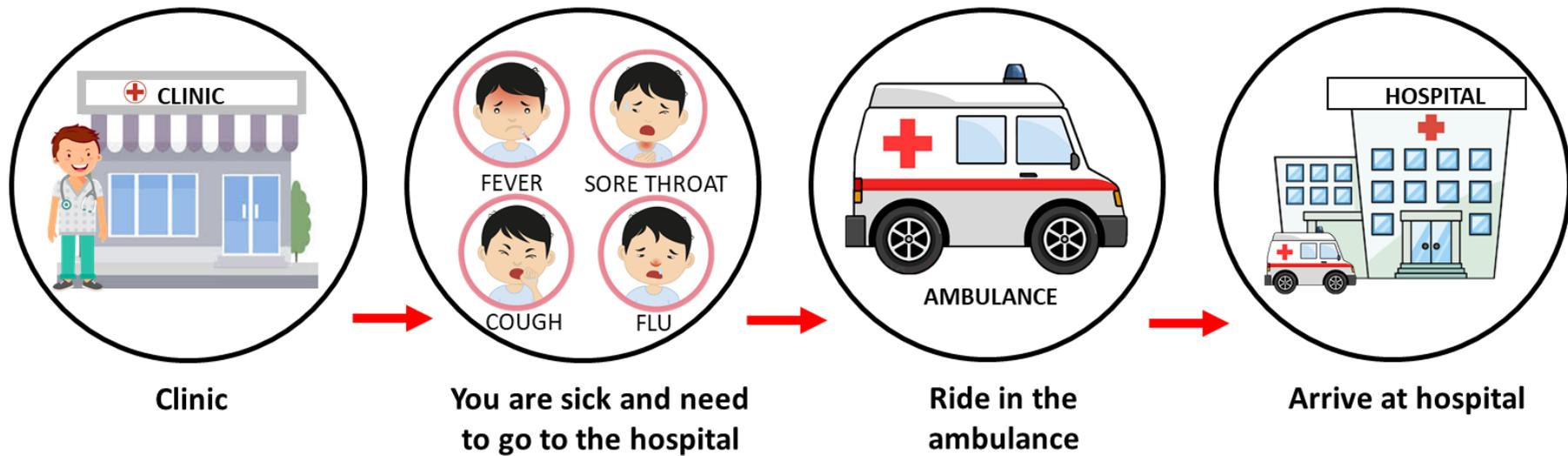
Step 5:



Squeeze All The Muscles In Your Body

Count to 10, then relax.

VISUAL SCHEDULE FOR JOURNEY FROM CLINIC TO EMERGENCY



SOCIAL STORY: FROM CLINIC TO HOSPITAL



I saw the doctor at the clinic today.



FLU



COUGH



FEVER



SORE THROAT

My doctor says I need to go to the hospital as I am sick.



An ambulance will take me there.



I go to the ambulance with Mummy/Daddy. There are so many sounds in this space! Mummy/Daddy is with me so I feel safe.



I am now at the hospital to see the doctor for my health



I can stay brave and strong!

ABOUT ME

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old. I am a boy / girl.



“Hi Doctor/Nurse!
When you come in,
please tell me your
name, who you are and
what you are doing.”

I communicate through...

Sentences

Pictures

Words

Others: _____

Gestures

I like: 😊	I don't like: ☹️

I feel scared/upset when...

I feel better when...

I might need help with...



The information provided in this publication is meant purely for educational purposes and may not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. You should seek the advice of your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.

Information is correct at the time of printing (May 2020) and subject to revision without prior notice.