Every person needs to take latest measures very seriously: Minister

Clement Yong

Singapore residents have to stay home and go out only for essential activities such as buying food, said National Development Minister Lawrence Wong, as the country saw a record 120 new coronavirus cases yesterday.

He stressed the need for every person to take the latest safe distancing measures very seriously and to make individual sacrifices, adding that routines such as going out to meet friends ‘cannot be tolerated any more’.

The Government had announced last Friday that most workplaces will be shut down and dining in will not be allowed at food establishments for a month from tomorrow, as part of a set of ‘circuit breaker’ measures to stem the spike in Covid-19 cases in the community, said Mr Wong. “For individuals, the rules are very clear. You stay home, do not go out. Go out only for essential activities which will include work that is considered essential or buying food and groceries,” he said.

The number of new imported cases – four yesterday – has steadily declined. “If we all do our part, if we all work together, we have a chance of containing the spread of the virus, and together we will be able to protect ourselves, our family members and save lives,” said Mr Wong.

When asked about the morale of healthcare workers, he said that there are no two ways about this. It is straightforward,” said Mr Wong, who co-chairs the multi-ministry task force on Covid-19.

He noted that there is still some confusion surrounding which businesses are allowed to stay open, and said these questions will be addressed. An estimated 75 per cent of workers will either work from home or stop working for the duration of the measures until May 4.

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