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The Block 4A Jalan Batu Hawker Centre saw 10 visits by a Covid-19 patient or patients while they were infectious. Members of the public who have visited such places at the times stated on the Health Ministry's list are advised to monitor their health closely for two weeks from the date of their visit. ST PHOTO: KHALID BABA

No need to avoid places visited by Covid-19 cases

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Ng Keng Gene
and Clara Chong

As Singapore continues to reopen its economy, more people are out and about, adding to the list of places visited by those with Covid-19.

Q How do I know which places were most visited by Covid-19 cases in the past month?

A The Ministry of Health (MOH) provides a daily list of places visited by Covid-19 cases for at least half an hour, for the past 14 days. The timings are also stated. The locations are updated on a rolling basis and the full list is available on the gov.sg website. Close contacts are also notified. There is no need to avoid these places as they would have been cleaned.

Q How long is this list?

A In the last five weeks, those infected with Covid-19 visited more than 90 places, though it is not stated if the same person visited multiple locations. Shopping malls were the most visited, including 12 in Orchard Road and about 30 in estates such as Joo Koon and Pasir Ris.

Markets and hawker centres also feature on the list, such as Old Airport Road Food Centre and Shopping Mall and Chinatown Complex Food Centre.

The following locations had the most number of repeated visits: Block 4A Jalan Batu Hawker Centre (10), Lucky Plaza (6), VivoCity (5), Geylang Serai Market and Food Centre (4), Wisma Atria (3), Bugis Junction (3), HomeTeamNS Khatib (3) and Bukit Panjang Plaza (3).

Q What should I do if I visited these places at the times stated on the list?

A Monitor your health closely for two weeks from the date of your visit.

If you have a fever, lose your sense of taste or smell, or develop symptoms of acute respiratory in-



Other places that were visited several times by patients while they were infectious are (from above) Lucky Plaza, VivoCity and Geylang Serai Market and Food Centre. All of these places would have been thoroughly cleaned, with the work done under the supervision of the National Environment Agency's officers.
ST PHOTOS: ARIFFIN JAMAR, GAVIN FOQ, JASON QUAH

clude the appropriate temperature to wash linen and instructions on how to dispose of personal protective equipment worn by the cleaners.

If premise owners and operators are not able to carry out the cleaning themselves, NEA has a list of companies that they can engage.

A spokesman for one such company, Clean Lab, said its cleaning team would arrive about one to two hours after it has been engaged for a cleaning job. Clean Lab deploys a crew of between three and five trained specialists to each location. The specialists respond only to Covid-19 decontamination requests.

Other companies such as Aardwolf Pestkare and Exceltec Property Management said they use active ingredients recommended by NEA in the disinfectant solutions for wiping down commonly touched surfaces and misting hard-to-reach spots.

Besides cleaning, businesses such as Muji and Prive restaurant also checked on the health of their staff after finding out that their premises had been visited by Covid-19 patients.

A spokesman for Prive said it "quarantined all relevant staff" upon finding out that its outlet at Wheelock Place was affected.

Q Is cleaning still needed if restaurant, shop and mall operators find out that their premises have been visited by Covid-19 patients only several days after the visit?

A Given that locations are updated on a rolling basis, and some time is needed for epidemiological investigations and contact tracing to be done before new places are added to MOH's list, some owners of premises may find out they were visited by patients up to 14 days after the day of the visit. For instance, eight visits to various locations on Aug 24 were added 14 days after they were visited.

Prof Teo said: "The Sars-CoV-2 virus can survive on surfaces for days, and studies have even shown a viable lifetime of up to three weeks in chilled environments of around 4 deg C.

"So, it certainly is still good practice to perform the disinfection protocols."

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