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# S'pore's 3 community care facilities currently 10% filled

## Around 270 people are currently being isolated in these places, which can take 2,400

Lim Min Zhang and Yuen Sin

As Covid-19 cases in the community have risen in recent weeks, bed spaces at community care facilities (CCFs) have been prepared for patients to be isolated and cared for.

There are currently three such facilities, and they can accommodate up to 2,400 people in total, said the Ministry of Health yesterday, in response to queries from The Straits Times.

These facilities are at D'Resort NTUC, Tuas South and Bright Vision Hospital. They are meant to house people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but have mild symptoms and lower risk factors.

As at Monday, 268 patients were being isolated and cared for at these places. This means that the CCFs are about 10 per cent filled.

MOH said that while the three CCFs are not at full capacity, it has also activated the CCFs at the former Ang Mo Kio Institute of Technical Education and Civil Service Club @ Loyang, "as an added buffer for contingencies, should there be a need to increase our CCF capacity".

"The addition of these CCFs means we can take in about 4,100 individuals in total," said the ministry.

Covid-19 cases in the community have been on the rise since late last month, after months of low to no daily cases.

At the end of last month, there were nine open clusters, most of them in the community. This has increased to 30 clusters as at Monday.

Larger spaces that were used as CCFs, including Changi Exhibition Centre, stopped being used as such from late last year.

Last October, there were three CCFs in operation – D'Resort NTUC, Singapore Expo and Big Box. No figures were available for their total capacity at the time.

The D'Resort NTUC facility in Pasir Ris was Singapore's first community isolation facility, set up in March last year.

As the Covid-19 outbreak here worsened in April last year, the capacity at CCFs was ramped up, making 10,000 bed spaces available.

MOH said yesterday that each CCF has been designed and built to facilitate rapid scaling up and down, depending on the needs and local situation. "We will continue to review the local situation and requirements, and adjust the CCF capacity accordingly."

In addition, one swab isolation facility is currently in operation at Village Hotel Changi, said MOH.

Hospitals are also beefing up their capacity to care for Covid-19 cases or isolate suspected cases.

A spokesman for the National University Health System (NUHS) said four hospitals that are part of the public healthcare cluster have set aside more holding facilities for suspected cases.

The National University Hospital, Alexandra Hospital, Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH) and Jurong Community Hospital are also ready to convert existing wards into those for Covid-19 patients – just as they were able to last year at the height of the outbreak, between April and May.

Last year, 32 per cent of beds at NTFGH and Jurong Community Hospital were converted to cater to Covid-19 patients.

"We are reducing non-urgent surgical work as we ramp up capacity to prepare for any surge in Covid-19 cases," said the NUHS spokesman.

Singapore General Hospital's medical board chairman Ruban Poopalalingam said that dedicated wards have been created for suspected cases, and more can be added if there is a need.

A spokesman for Khoo Teck Puat Hospital said that it has recently reconfigured its wards and clinical areas following an increase in Covid-19 patients at the hospital.

mzlim@sph.com.sg
yuensin@sph.com.sg

Singapore currently has community care facilities at D'Resort NTUC in Pasir Ris (above) Bright Vision Hospital in Hougang (left) and Tuas South. They are meant to house people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but have mild symptoms and lower risk factors. ST PHOTOS: DESMOND FOO, LIM YAOHUI

**Patients at community care facilities**

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