



Dear Students,

ADVISORY FOR THE COMING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

With the upcoming year-end school holidays, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would like to remind you to stay away from crime and drug/inhalant abuse, as well as to take measures to avoid being victims of crime.

Stay Away From Crime

2. **Shop theft is an offence.** Always pay for your items before you leave the store.
3. **Cheating is an offence even on online platforms.** In the past year, more students have been arrested for committing cheating-related offences, be it through online platforms, or misusing others' bank or identification cards for easy money. For example, youths have acted as money mules for scammers in exchange for quick cash. The Police would like to urge you to **be more alert when presented with job offers**, especially those that seem too good to be true with the promise of quick and easy money, such as liking YouTube videos for a commission or anything that require the handover of your bank and/or Singpass accounts. Always remember to not reveal your banking and Singpass passwords or OTP to anyone, not even your friends. When in doubt, always consult your parents or teachers.
4. **Avoid disputes or confrontations, amongst your friends, classmates, and strangers.** Disputes and heated arguments can often lead to fights or assaults that may result in severe injuries for both parties. Offenders may be arrested for serious offences such as affray and unlawful assembly. In addition, joining a gang is a crime.
5. **Sexual offences such as voyeurism, possession of or distribution of a voyeuristic or intimate image are serious offences.** Do not film others in toilets or the shower or take upskirt photos or videos. If you receive voyeuristic or intimate images, do not forward them to anyone else and delete them. Report to the police or a trusted adult if you are aware of such images being circulated. All offenders will be dealt with sternly by the law.
6. **Vaping at any age, and underaged smoking is illegal.** All e-cigarettes, cigarettes and other types of vaporisers are harmful and can adversely affect your health and families. Youths who are caught using or possessing such products will be reported to the Health Sciences Authority.

Prevent Yourself From Becoming a Victim of Crime

7. **Always take care of your personal belongings, stay alert to your surroundings, and avoid uncomfortable situations with strangers.** Where possible, arrange for an adult family member or trusted friend to escort you home when returning alone late at night. If you suspect that you are being followed, remain calm and proceed to a crowded area or call the Police immediately on our emergency hotline – 999.

8. **Be careful of who you talk to online and do not respond to unsolicited messages from strangers on Telegram, WhatsApp or any other social media platform.** Scammers may offer you fake jobs that appear lucrative and involve easy tasks, such as purchasing movie tickets or giving online travel reviews. Scammers may also list such “job offerings” on online platforms such as Carousell, Gumtree or Facebook. They may impersonate your friend by hacking into your friend’s social media account or creating a fake account using your friend’s profile picture and details. Be wary of people especially if they ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. You should verify if the request is legitimate by checking with your family and friends through alternative means such as physical meet-ups, video calls or email other than using the contact details on your phone.

9. **Be careful when shopping online.** Be careful of online deals from unknown sellers that are way below recommended retail price, disguised as limited-time-only or flash deals, for example, electronic devices and handphones. Scammers would induce victims to make money transfers first, after which the goods will not be delivered. In some cases, scammers have even cheated victims into making multiple payments on false claims of customs/processing fees, securing better deals with bulk purchases, etc. Reduce your risks by purchasing only from authorised sellers, use the platform’s secure payment option, and do not shift onto payments outside the platform such as through bank transfers. Always pay only when you receive the goods.

Drug and Inhalant Abuse Situation

10. **The possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.** In 2021, 200 persons below the age of 20 were arrested for drug abuse and 152 of them were new abusers. Drug abuse causes harm to your body and mind. Do not let drugs harm you and your family and loved ones.

11. **Stay away from drug and inhalant abuse.** Do not allow yourself to be pressured into trying drugs. Walk away if anyone tries to offer you drugs and do inform your family members or school staff immediately especially if anyone tries to influence you to abuse drugs.

12. **Always exercise caution on the Internet and social media.** The Internet and social media may carry misinformation about drugs and mislead people into thinking that drugs are not harmful and that they are legal, so as to create demand for the drugs and profit off drug abusers. Do not attempt to buy drugs online as this also constitutes illegal drug activities.

13. **Do not get involved in online drug activities.** CNB also monitors and investigates online drug activities and will not hesitate to take action against those who order drugs or drugs paraphernalia online, have drugs delivered by post or courier, and those who are involved in any illegal drug activities.

14. **Stay away from drugs even when you are overseas.** Under the Misuse of Drugs Act, you will be liable for the same drug consumption offence regardless of where the controlled drugs were consumed. CNB conducts regular enforcement checks at the airport and at the other land and sea checkpoints.

15. **Beware of food and products containing controlled drugs.** Drugs may be disguised as food and made to appear less harmful to entice people into trying these drugs. They are illegal in Singapore, and it is also against the law to consume or bring them into Singapore. If you are travelling to countries where these food and other products containing controlled drugs may be sold, do exercise caution. If in doubt, do not consume or purchase anything unknown to you or offered to you by strangers.

Resources on Crime Prevention and Staying Drug-Free

16. The following provides more information on crime prevention and staying drug-free:

- Sign up for the Anti-Drug Advocate (ADA) Programme to help be an advocate for a drug-free Singapore. For more information, follow us on CNB's social media handles @CNB.DrugFreeSG (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) or contact us at: cnb_community_partnership@cnb.gov.sg. You can also visit the CNB's website www.cnb.gov.sg for more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse.
- Please call the Police or the CNB hotline at 1800-325-6666 if you come across drugs, or what you suspect to be drugs, or to report any cases of suspected drug and inhalant abuse.
- For anyone who wishes to seek help with addiction-related matters, please call the National Addictions Management Service (NAMS) at 6732 6837.
- For more information on crime prevention, visit the SPF's website at www.police.gov.sg, SPF Facebook or NCPC's website at www.ncpc.org.sg. Please call the Police hotline at 1800-255-0000 or submit the information online at www.police.gov.sg/iwitness to report matters on gangs, unlicensed money lending or crimes. Please dial '999' if urgent Police assistance is required. If you are aware of any gang activities or anyone who wants to leave a gang, please advise him/her to seek assistance from the Secret Societies Branch at 6435 0000. You can also call the

NCPC's X Ah Long Hotline at 1800-9-24-5664 (1800-X-AH-LONG) to report unlicensed money lending matters.

- For more information on scams, visit www.scamalert.sg. You may also call the Anti-Scam Helpline at 1800-722-6688 to seek scam-related advice. Be our advocate by sharing the latest scam alerts you receive on NCPC ScamAlert Telegram channel (<https://t.me/ncpscamaalert>) with your family and friends. Together, we can help stop scams and prevent our loved ones from becoming the next victim of scam.

17. Thank you and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Kaye Chow
Senior Assistant Director
Community Partnership
Communications Division
Central Narcotics Bureau



Mr Matthew Choo
Assistant Director
Crime Control Division
Operations Department
Singapore Police Force



Mr Devrajan Bala
Executive Director
National Crime Prevention Council



Ms Audrey Ang
Secretary
National Council Against Drug Abuse