



# JOINT YEAR-END SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ADVISORY

Stay safe during the school holidays by following these tips.

## STAY AWAY FROM CRIME



Shop Theft is a crime. Always pay for your items before you leave the store.



Cheating is a crime. Youths have been investigated due to their involvement as money mules for quick cash. Our payment accounts, like bank accounts, and Singpass account are for our own use only.



Do not film others in private spaces such as toilet cubicles or take upskirt photos or videos. This is a crime.



Rioting is a crime, which can lead to serious injuries to you and others.



Unlicensed Moneylending Harassment is a crime. Do not respond to messages on Telegram or Instagram on jobs such as splashing of paint or harassments.

## YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A VICTIM OF CRIME



Always take care of your personal belongings. Do not leave your items and valuables unattended even for a short while.



Be aware of your surroundings and be attentive to any suspicious person.



If you have been a victim or know anyone who has been a victim of sexual crime, do not hesitate to tell a trusted adult and make a police report as soon as possible.



Beware of advertisements featuring sales of items that seem too good to be true, or require you to download unknown applications to proceed with purchases.

# ACT TODAY TO SAFEGUARD STUDENTS FROM SCAMS

## WHY SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED?

- As digital natives, students may be overconfident of their abilities to detect scams, and not recognise their need to take protective anti-scam actions.
- Students may think they will never fall victim to scams.
- Some students have also participated in scams as money mules by allowing others to use their singpass / banking accounts for criminal activities.



## DID YOU KNOW?

In the first half of 2023, more than 1,000 scam victims were between the ages of 10-19 years old.



## WHAT ARE THE COMMON SCAMS AFFECTING YOUTHS?



### Social Media Impersonation Scam

Scammers impersonate known contacts or friends on social media, and deceive victims into downloading malware, disclosing personal information and banking details.

Scammers will try to contact victims via mediums such as email, text message or call to deceive them into downloading malware, disclosing personal information and banking details.

### Phishing Scam



### e-Commerce Scam

Scammers advertise goods and services for sale online but do not deliver it after payment is made by their victims. They sometimes also deceive victims to download malware onto their phone.

Scammers advertise jobs promising high salaries for little effort. They seek upfront payments from victims as part of the job but disappear with victims' money subsequently. They sometimes also deceive victims to download malware on their phone.

### Job Scam



## WE CAN ACT AGAINST SCAMS

**ADD** ScamShield app and security features

**CHECK** for scam signs and with official sources

**TELL** authorities, family and friends about scams

## MONEY MULING IS A CRIME!

*Our payment and singpass accounts are for our own use only!*



*Scan to learn of the negative consequences money mules will face*



**Block scam calls, detect scam SMSes and report scams via the ScamShield app**



*Scan to find out more!*

**Add the NCPC Whatsapp channel to alert your family and friends to the latest scams**



# DRUG AND INHALANT ABUSE

In 2022, 119 persons below the age of 20 were arrested for drug abuse and 83 of them were new abusers.



The possession, consumption and trafficking of controlled drugs are serious offences.



Stay away from drug and inhalant abuse. Walk away if anyone tries to offer you drugs.



Consuming drugs outside of Singapore, even if the drug is legal in that country is an offence liable for the same punishments imposed upon such offences committed in Singapore.



Always exercise caution on the Internet and social media as there may be much misinformation about drugs.

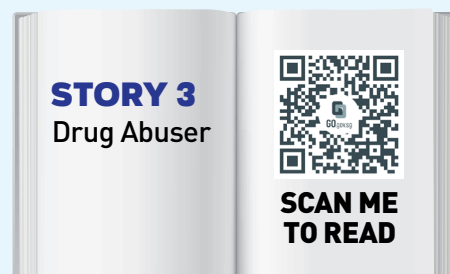
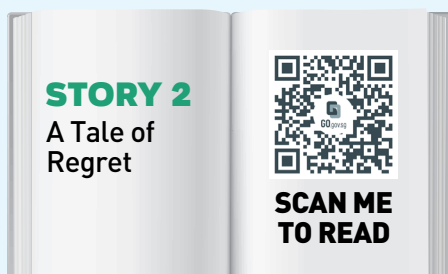


DO NOT get involved in online drug activities or attempt to buy drugs online. CNB monitors and investigates online drug activities.



Beware of food and products containing controlled drugs. If in doubt, do not consume or purchase these items.

## REAL LIFE STORIES



## OUR HELPLINES:

### CRIME PREVENTION

Call the Police hotline at **1800 255 0000** or submit information online at [www.police.gov.sg/iwitness](http://www.police.gov.sg/iwitness)

'**999**' is for emergencies only. Please dial if you require urgent Police assistance.

For more information, visit: [www.police.gov.sg](http://www.police.gov.sg), [SPF Facebook](#) or [www.ncpc.org.sg](http://www.ncpc.org.sg).

### DRUGS PREVENTION

For more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse, visit: [www.cnb.gov.sg](http://www.cnb.gov.sg).

Please call the Police or the CNB hotline at **1800 325 6666** to report 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**.



Dear Parents and Students,

## **ADVISORY ON VAPING**

The Health Promotion Board (HPB) and Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to remind you of the following:

### **VAPING IS ILLEGAL, REGARDLESS OF AGE.**

Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act:

- **It is an offence to purchase, use or possess e-cigarettes and/or their components. Offenders can be fined up to \$2,000.**
- **It is also an offence to advertise, import, distribute, sell, offer for sale or possess for sale these products in Singapore. Offenders can be fined up to \$20,000 or face imprisonment of up to 12 months or both.**

Disciplinary actions will be taken against anyone caught for the above offences. Refer to Annex for more information on the penalties imposed on the offences.

### **VAPING IS HARMFUL AND CAN BE A GATEWAY TO CIGARETTE SMOKING.**

Vaping, just like smoking cigarettes, is harmful and can lead to lifelong addiction. E-cigarettes contain many harmful substances such as nicotine. These substances can negatively impact brain development, especially to parts of the brain that control attention, learning and memory. E-cigarettes also contain benzene and formaldehyde which can cause cancer and infertility. Studies have also shown that individuals who vape are more likely to pick up cigarette smoking later in life<sup>1</sup>.

**If you know of someone who vapes or owns an e-cigarette, please inform the school so that timely cessation support can be offered to them. Alternatively, please call QuitLine at 1800 438 2000 for vaping/smoking cessation support.**

Ms Vasuki Utravathy  
Director, School Health & Outreach Division  
Health Promotion Board

Mr Norman Chong  
Director, Tobacco Regulation Branch  
Health Sciences Authority

<sup>1</sup> Chien Y et al. Electronic Cigarette Use and Smoking Initiation in Taiwan: Evidence from the First Prospective Study in Asia. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2019. Apr; 16(7):1145.  
Conner M et al. Evidence that an intervention weakens the relationship between adolescent electronic cigarette use and tobacco smoking: a 24-month prospective study. Tob Control 2019.  
Hammond D et al. Electronic cigarette use and smoking initiation among youth: a longitudinal cohort study. CMAJ 2017  
Soneji S, Barrington-Trimis J, Wills T.A, et al. Association between initial use of e-cigarettes and subsequent cigarette smoking among adolescents and young adults. JAMA Pediatrics 2017.

## Annex

### Examples of scenarios of possessing, using or purchasing of e-cigarettes:

Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
"I bought an e-cigarette online, but I did not use it."	"I bought 2 e-cigarettes, 1 for me and 1 for my friend, who paid me for his share."	"I post vape content on my Tiktok and Instagram account."
This is considered as a <u>purchase</u> .	This is considered as a <u>sale</u> .	This is considered as an <u>advertisement</u> .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penalty imposed for possessing, using, or purchasing e-cigarettes.</li> <li>All offences, fine up to \$2,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penalty imposed for selling or advertising e-cigarettes.</li> <li>1<sup>st</sup> offence                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fine up to \$10,000</li> <li>Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months; or</li> <li>Both fine &amp; imprisonment</li> </ul> </li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; subsequent offences                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fine up to \$20,000</li> <li>Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months; or</li> <li>Both fine &amp; imprisonment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

### EDM on Vaping from HPB (Secondary)



## VAPING AT ANY AGE IS ILLEGAL

The use of e-cigarettes and/or vapourisers can lead to lifelong addiction. E-cigarettes contain many cancer-causing and harmful substances such as formaldehyde, benzene (produced when heated), and heavy metals such as lead.

### LEGISLATIVE CONTROLS ON E-CIGARETTES

Possession, Use & Purchase	Import, Distribution, Sale or Offer For Sale
<p>•All offences – Fine not exceeding \$2,000</p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Offence</b> – You may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed for up to 6 months.</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offence</b> – You may be fined up to \$20,000 and/or jailed for up to 12 months.</p>

"I BOUGHT AN E-CIGARETTE ONLINE, BUT I DID NOT USE IT."

**IT IS ILLEGAL.**

"I BOUGHT 2 E-CIGARETTES, 1 FOR ME AND 1 FOR MY FRIEND, WHO PAID ME FOR HIS SHARE."

**IT IS ILLEGAL.**

"I POST VAPE CONTENT ON MY TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT."

**IT IS ILLEGAL.**

**!**

If you know of someone who vapes or owns an e-cigarette, please inform your teacher so that timely cessation support can be offered.