

# Travelling

## WITH CHILDREN

SHARED BY DR CHAN SI MIN, HEAD & SENIOR CONSULTANT, DIVISION OF PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES, KHOO TECK PUAT - NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL INSTITUTE, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (NUH).

As our borders gradually begin to open, leisure travel is becoming a real prospect to the travel-starved masses.

But **for families with young children** – many of whom may still be unvaccinated – some **extra precautions** should be taken.



## Before the trip:



- ✓ **Read up on the COVID-19 situation** in the destination country.
- ✓ **Check COVID-19 restrictions** and regulations in the destination country.
- ✓ **Ensure adequate travel insurance** to cover the costs of COVID-19-related medical treatment and delayed travel.
- ✓ **For children above six months old**, get them **vaccinated against influenza**, which causes symptoms similar to COVID-19.
- ✓ **Pack supplies** that may not be easily available overseas (e.g. *face masks, hand sanitiser, alcohol wipes*).
- ✓ **Pack essential medical supplies** (e.g. *paracetamol, antihistamines, thermometer, oximeter*).
- ✓ Be aware of how to **access local healthcare services** (e.g. *the clinic or emergency department*) should anyone fall sick.
- ✓ **Draw up contingency plans** (e.g. *what to do and where to stay*) in case the trip has to be extended, if someone develops COVID-19 infection and cannot take a return flight.
- ✓ **Prepare documentation** of vaccination status for each traveller.
- ✓ **Find out** where and how to get your **pre-departure swab** before the return flight to Singapore.
- ✓ For children in school, parents and caregivers may need to **notify the school of their overseas travel plans** during the school holidays.



## During the trip:

- ✓ **Practice appropriate hand hygiene** and **mask-wearing**.
- ✓ **Avoid large crowds**, especially indoors.



## After the trip:

- ✓ **Monitor** for symptoms.
- ✓ If possible, **avoid frequent social mixing for 7-10 days** after returning home.