

Media Release

Minister for Health Instructs POFMA Office to Issue Correction Directions

Singapore – 31 January 2020: A false statement was made on a AB-TC City News' website article, alleging that five Singaporeans contracted the Wuhan Coronavirus without going to China. The article was subsequently shared by Mr Lim Tean and 'Say No to PAP' via their Facebook pages.

2. The Minister for Health has instructed POFMA Office to issue a Correction Direction¹ against AB-TC City News for its website article. AB-TC City News will be required to carry a correction notice alongside this article.

3. The Minister for Health has also instructed POFMA Office to issue Correction Directions against Mr Lim Tean and 'Say No to PAP'. While both parties have taken down their Facebook posts containing the falsehood, they are still required to carry a correction notice on their respective Facebook pages. This will ensure that persons who had viewed their posts are informed of the facts.

4. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article, "Corrections and clarifications regarding falsehoods published by AB-TC City News' website" (www.gov.sg/article/factually-clarifications-on-falsehoods-posted-by-abtc-city-news).

5. We wish to remind members of the public not to speculate and/or spread rumours. They should rely on formal Government channels such as the Ministry of Health's official website (www.moh.gov.sg) and Gov.sg WhatsApp (<http://go.gov.sg/whatsapp>) to get accurate and up-to-date information on the Wuhan Coronavirus situation in Singapore. Any suspected falsehoods can be reported to info@pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

¹ A Correction Direction is a Direction issued to a person who has communicated a falsehood (i.e. the recipient) that affects the public interest. It requires the recipient to publish a correction notice, providing access to the correct facts. The Direction does not require the recipient to take down their post or make edits to their content, and does not impose criminal sanctions.

About the POFMA Office

The POFMA Office, situated within the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), is responsible for the administration of the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA). For more information about POFMA Office, visit www.pofmaoffice.gov.sg.

For media queries, please contact:

LIOW Ruo Yu (Ms)

Assistant Manager, Corporate Communications, POFMA Office

DID: (65) 6751 2828

Email: liow_ruo_yu@pofmaoffice.gov.sg

CHUA Hian Hou (Mr)

Deputy Director, Corporate Communications, POFMA Office

DID: (65) 6202 4956

Email: chua_hian_hou@pofmaoffice.gov.sg