

Temasek Foundation's sponsorship of COVID-19 swab booth development

Article contributed by Temasek Foundation



Dr Teo Boon See from Camry Medical Centre conducting a swab test using a COSMO (COVID-19 Swabbing Mobile Booth) SafeSwab Slim booth.



Feedback from doctors helped the team to design a booth that is lightweight and easy to wheel around.

Images courtesy of Caroline Chia

The swab booth, named COSMO (COVID-19 Swabbing Mobile Booth) SafeSwab Slim, was developed as a collaboration between a team from Temasek, Camry Medical Centre and a group of Public Health Preparedness Clinics (PHPCs), and local precision engineering company ATC. The initiative is sponsored by Temasek Foundation. The booth has an aluminum frame and polycarbonate panels. It is sprayed with a self-disinfecting antimicrobial coating that lasts up to six months. To further minimise the possibility of virus transmission, latex gloves are attached to the panel, which swabbers will insert their hands into before collecting the sample. "These swab booths enable swabbing to be carried out effectively and safely at PHPCs during the COVID-19 pandemic," said Mr Ng Boon Heong, CEO of Temasek Foundation.

The swab booth is on trial at about 170 clinics across Singapore. Doctors who are taking part in the trial received the booths free of charge. In return, they provide feedback which is being used to improve the design and functionality of the booth. Applications for the booth initially closed in July, but have been reopened due to popular demand. Temasek Foundation has expanded the programme to support more PHPCs and will deploy the booths at a total of 250 clinics.

Dr Teo Boon See from Camry Medical Centre in Toa Payoh heard about the project and shared ideas on how to improve the swab booth's design. She was one of the GPs who provided feedback to improve the design of the booth. One key suggestion she raised resulted in the "slim

fit" booth design which ensures that the booth could be pushed through doorways of clinics. Dr Jean Yim of Yim Medical Centre in Admiralty shared that the booth is situated outside her clinic, so that solves her problem of needing an isolated room in the clinic to conduct swab tests and having to decontaminate it after every patient, which can be very tedious. Mr Marcus Sia, Managing Director of ATC, commented that it is important that the booth is user friendly, and doctors, who are the end users, have to like using the booths.

Patients who have been tested using these swab booths said that the process of having a swab done at neighbourhood clinics is convenient, and the booth makes it more comfortable. Ms Sharlene Toh appreciated that the frosted panels of the booth provided her with some privacy.

"At Temasek, we believe that corporates, together with the government and the community, must all do our collective part to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Temasek Foundation, we have been contributing towards the national effort of increasing the capacity for swab testing in Singapore," said Ms Khoo Yi-Lin, an Associate Director at Temasek's Investment Group and a key member of this project.

Please visit <https://bit.ly/2GhP7s6> if you are interested to apply for a COSMO SafeSwab Slim booth.