

Update on Total Defence Day Ambient RTE Meal distribution

20 February 2025

On Wednesday, 19 February 2025, it was brought to our attention that 20 students at the School of the Arts (SOTA) in Singapore exhibited symptoms of gastroenteritis following the Total Defence Day activities where ambient Ready-to-Eat (RTE) meals prepared by SATS were served.

To provide context, we delivered 1,475 meals to SOTA and over 100,000 meals to more than 200 locations as part of the exercise since 11 February. There have been no other reported incidents to date. As a cautionary measure, the distribution of ambient RTE meals for the Food Resilience Preparedness Programme has been paused from today (20 February 2025) until the investigation is concluded.

We are collaborating with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the Singapore Food Agency to identify the root cause of these cases. A thorough investigation will include an examination of our products, production sites and other consumed items, as well as a consideration of potentially contributory factors such as environmental influences.

Although this situation has raised concerns, we want to emphasise and assure everyone in no uncertain terms that food safety is our highest priority.

We ensure the highest food safety and quality standards by using advanced sterilisation techniques for our ambient RTE meals. All ingredients are traceable to their sources, with suppliers undergoing rigorous audits. Our quality assurance team oversees every production step, from preparation to final inspection. Our facilities meet internationally recognised food safety certifications, reflecting our commitment to leading industry standards.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

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