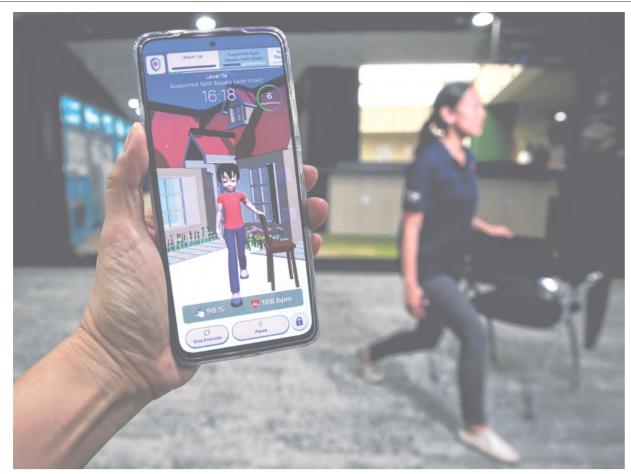
The new app, called MoveVid, is paired with a wearable pulse oximeter and features an animated character that demonstrates how to perform exercises such as squats. It also prompts users to rest if they feel unwell or out of breath, and provides infographics and quides so that patients can learn how to exercise safely by themselves. ST PHOTO: GIN TAY



App seeks to help those with long Covid recover

Eight-week exercise programme aimed at getting them back to previous physical activity levels

Zhaki Abdullah

Those who have recovered from Covid-19 but suffer persistent symptoms such as breathlessness can look forward to help from an app to recover through exercise.

Dubbed MoveVid, it provides patients with a customised eightweek exercise programme aimed at helping them return to their previous levels of physical activity.

Paired with a wearable pulse oximeter, which measures heart rate and blood oxygen levels, the app features an animated character that demonstrates how to perform exercises such as squats.

The app also prompts users to rest if they feel unwell or out of breath, and provides infographics and guides so that patients can learn how to exercise safely by themselves.

It is expected to be available to the public by the first quarter of

The persistence of symptoms such as fatigue or shortness of breath for three months or more

PUSH TO MOVE

It will help patients get out of the cycle of inactivity and help them on the road to recovery.

DR XU HUIYING, a senior consultant with the Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine at Tan Tock Seng Hospital.

following a coronavirus infection is sometimes referred to as "long

In April, Health Minister Ong Ye Kung said in a written reply to parliamentary questions that his ministry does not track the number of patients with persistent symptoms after Covid-19.

However, a study conducted in the Netherlands by researchers from the University of Groningen and published in The Lancet medical journal earlier this year suggested that as many as one in eight adults with Covid-19 may experience long Covid.

MoveVid was developed by a team of two doctors and four therapists from Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), together with local startup Taggle Health.

A pilot study to test the safety and effectiveness of the app's exercise programme began in May, with participants in the process of being recruited. The aim is to eventually have at least 10 suitable participants.

The app was conceived in 2020, when pandemic restrictions meant there was a greater need for remotely supervised exercise programmes.

With most people experiencing mild symptoms and Singapore moving towards living with Covid-19, the team is keen to expand the use of the app to helping people recover from other respiratory conditions, said senior physiotherapist Cheryl Heng, the study's principal investigator.

Dr Xu Huiying, a senior consultant with the Department of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine at TTSH, said the conditions include chronic asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which can cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems.

TTSH senior physiotherapist Audrey Lee said the programme is likely to be most beneficial to elderly patients, who may have problems resuming physical activity after a Covid-19 infection.

Dr Xu added that such patients may be less likely to be able to exercise by themselves, and may face problems going to the hospital for a rehabilitation programme.

"It will help patients get out of the cycle of inactivity and help them on the road to recovery," she said.

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Six Australian schoolgirls arrested for shoplifting let off with warnings

Samuel Devaraj

Three Australian schoolgirls arrested for shoplifting in Orchard Road have been let off with 12-month conditional warnings.

Three others received stern warnings, the police said on Wednesday in response to queries from The Straits Times, adding that the warnings were handed out in consultation with the Attorney-General's Chambers.

"This took into account, among other factors, their ages and the extent of their individual involvement," said the police, who were alerted to the case of theft at 333A Orchard Road at about 4pm on Nov 13.

Australian media reports said the girls - who were here for a netball competition - were suspected of stealing lingerie from a Victoria's Secret store and a pair of Crocs footwear.

They identified the girls as Year 10 students from Bacchus Marsh Grammar, a private school about 60km north of Melbourne in the Australian state of

Following investigations by the police, the six girls – aged 14 to 16 – were found in possession of stolen items.

A stern warning may be issued in place of prosecution after a criminal investigation is concluded.

A conditional stern warning, on the other hand, allows the authorities to prosecute the accused for the original crime if conditions in the warning are breached within a specified time period. In this case, it is 12 months.

On Tuesday, Australian media reports, quoting the school's principal Andrew Neal, said the matter had been resolved and all the girls had returned home after leaving Singapore last Saturday.

"Everyone is here and they all came in on the same flight... All matters have been resolved and the girls were allowed to proceed to the airport with no further action," Mr Neal said.

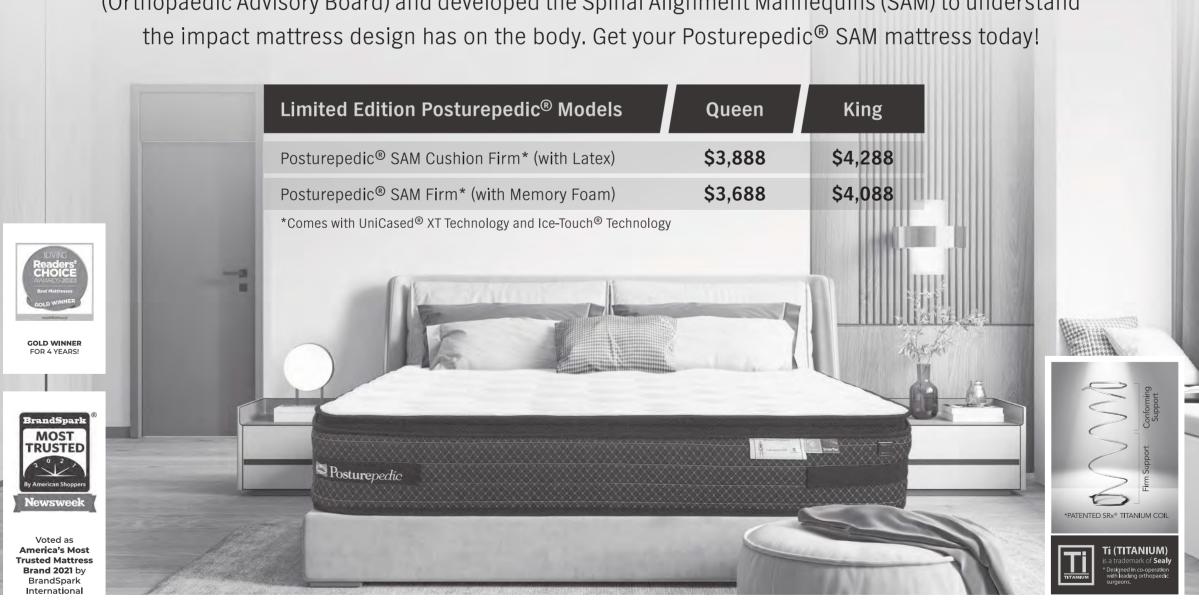
He had said earlier that 18 students had come to Singapore to compete in a regional netball competition.

He also said the school appreciated the Singapore police for their professionalism, saying in a statement that they have been firm, fair and thorough.

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