

COMFORTDELGRO TAXI TO OFFER FREE PROLONGED MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE TO ALL FULL-TIME TAXI HIRERS AND PHC DRIVERS

1 July 2022 – From today, full-time taxi hirers and private-hire car (PHC) drivers¹ with ComfortDelGro will automatically receive free insurance coverage for a new plan that will provide them with daily cash payouts should they be unable to work due to a prolonged injury or illness.

Called the Prolonged Medical Leave insurance policy (PML policy), it aims to mitigate the loss of income by paying drivers up to S\$80 per day from the eighth day of their hospitalisation or outpatient medical leave². Depending on their tenure with the Company, the daily hospital leave loss income due to sickness or accidental injury is claimable up to 70 days, while the daily outpatient medical leave cash benefit due to sickness or accidental injury is claimable up to 18 days.

Jointly put together by ComfortDelGro Taxi, its sister company, ComfortDelGro Insurance Brokers Pte Ltd, and underwritten by Etiqa Insurance Pte Ltd, the PML policy is expected to cost ComfortDelGro Taxi close to S\$1 million, covering close to 9,000 eligible drivers, including private-hire car drivers. Part-time or relief drivers who are not eligible for the free coverage can purchase the PML policy online³ at a specially negotiated flat rate available exclusively for them.

Another PML benefit is a special one-time cash payout of S\$1,000, paid out only once per year, to those who are diagnosed with COVID-19 using a Polymer Chain Reaction test by a registered medical practitioner, specialist or hospital.

¹ *Applicable for PHC drivers who have rented a car with ComfortDelGro Rent-A-Car Pte Ltd and have completed at least four ComfortRIDE bookings per day for at least six days a week.*

² *Subject to a 30-day waiting period before the claim is payable except for those arising from accidental injuries.*

³ <https://cdg.gigacover.com>.

Other than personal coverage, the PML policy goes one step further by providing policy holders with complimentary home insurance that covers household items and fixtures in the event of incidents such as fire, flooding, theft and explosions. The home insurance plan protects the insured against unexpected losses of home contents of up to S\$25,000 and renovations to the house of up to S\$50,000 on a first loss basis, as well as worldwide personal liability.

Mr Jackson Chia, CEO of the Group’s Private Mobility Group and ComfortDelGro Taxi said: “Our drivers are our valued business partners and their well-being is of utmost importance to us. We have continued to provide rental waivers but we fully understand that they would still have concerns about the loss of income when they are unable to work due to prolonged illnesses, hospitalisation or medical leave. As such, the PML policy seeks to address these concerns and help provide them with peace of mind during the convalescence period.

“With an uptick in COVID-19 cases due to new Omicron sub-variants, the S\$1,000 COVID-19 payout will hopefully help cover our drivers’ operational costs should they contract it due to the nature of their job. What’s more, eligible drivers who are automatically covered under the PML policy will also have a home insurance plan at no extra cost to them,” he added.

Cabby Lee Teng Nguan, 54, a ComfortDelGro hirer for 13 years, is one of those who will be automatically insured under the PML policy. As the sole breadwinner, he is thankful for the peace of mind the new policy gives – not just to him but his wife and two kids. He said: “I am thankful that ComfortDelGro Taxi is providing the PML policy for us – for free, given how the costs of living have risen so much. Although I am healthy now, I still need to plan for rainy days as age catches up. Having this PML policy that provides a daily income should I not be able to drive will help defray our daily expenses. Also, while COVID-19 may be under control here in Singapore, the risks of contracting it is still there, so the one-time S\$1,000 COVID-19 payout will help alot.”

Background

ComfortDelGro is one of the world's largest land transport companies with a total fleet size of about 35,000 buses, taxis and rental vehicles. We also run 177 km of light and heavy rail networks in Singapore and New Zealand. Our global operations span seven countries – Singapore, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, China, Ireland and Malaysia. In Singapore, we operate close to 9,000 taxis.