

CPE 48th Advisory: Further Tightening During Stabilisation Period

Dear Sirs,

1. On 24 September 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced tightening of community safe management measures, to slow down community transmissions and allow for better stability. This will take effect from 27 September 2021 through 24 October 2021. There will be a review of the measures two weeks after implementation and adjustments will be made further based on the community situation then. The MTF media release is attached below.



MTF Press
Release-Stabilising ou

Requirements for Private Education Institutions (PEIs)

Home-Based Learning required for all students 12 years old and below [New]

2. To protect younger children who are not yet medically eligible for vaccination, the Ministry of Education (MOE) will implement Home-Based Learning (HBL) for primary school students for a period of two weeks starting from 27 September 2021. MOE kindergartens, KCare Services and Student Care Centres will continue to remain open. During this period, in-person tuition and enrichment classes for students aged 12 and below must pivot online or otherwise be suspended.

3. **In line with the above measures, PEIs must suspend in-person classes and implement HBL for all students aged 12 years and below, from 27 September 2021 to 10 October 2021 (dates inclusive). PEIs that are unable to do so must suspend in-person classes in the interim. Preschool services in PEIs may remain open, subject to safe management measures (SMM), but parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if they can.**

National SMMs [Updated]

4. All PEIs must continue to abide by all prevailing national safe management measures (SMMs). These include but are not limited to:

- a) **Safe Distancing:** Reduction of permissible group sizes from five students to two students per group, with safe distancing of at least one metre and no physical interactions between different groups.
- b) **F&B outlets:** Groups of up to two persons will be allowed to dine-in at F&B establishments if all the diners are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test (PET) result, recovered individuals, and children aged 12 years and below may also be included in such groups of two. Patrons are reminded to adhere to all safe management measures and keep their masks on at all times except when eating or drinking. F&B establishments that are not able to ensure that all dine-in patrons meet the criteria for full vaccination may only operate take-away and delivery services.

5. PEIs are strongly encouraged to take reference from the measures for [preschools](#), schools and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) and decide if they wish to adopt any that are beyond national SMMs. More information on the latest plans and safe management measures for [preschools](#), MOE schools and IHLs can be found in [Annex A](#).

6. PEIs should check www.gov.sg/features/covid-19 for the latest updates and advisories.

Sector-Specific Guidelines for Higher Risk Activities

7. PEIs are also required to adhere to all prevailing guidelines for higher-risk classes and activities on campus. Additional safe management measures apply for Sport or Physical Activity, Dance, Singing, Wind/Brass Instrument, Voice Training, Speech and Drama Classes:

- a) For all sport or physical activity classes, as well as outdoor dance classes, please refer to the Sport Singapore advisory, available at: <https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/Newsroom/Media-Releases>
- b) For indoor dance classes, singing, wind/brass instrument classes, voice training, and speech and drama classes, please refer to the National Arts Council's advisory, available at <https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/sustaining-the-arts-during-covid-19/Safe-Management-Measures-for-the-Arts-and-Culture-Sector.html>

8. Live Performances: Live performances may be permitted, subject to the relevant SMMs outlined in NAC's advisory. PEIs should seek approval from SSG prior to organising live performances.

*Workplace Measures **[Updated]***

9. **Work-from-home (WFH) will be the default** for employees who are able to work from home. During this period, the 10-day snap WFH regime will be suspended. There should continue to be no cross-deployment of staff as a default. Social gatherings at workplaces are disallowed. Please refer to the MOM [website](#) for the full workplace SMMs. Employers should also continue to stagger the start times of employees who need to return to the workplace and implement flexible working hours.

10. PEIs should be judicious in only allowing staff whose work must be done onsite, e.g. to support students attending in-person classes, provide other essential services or access lab-based equipment, to return, subject to SMMs. This group of employees is strongly encouraged to self-test weekly via an Antigen Rapid Test (ART) to keep infected employees from coming to work and keep their workplace safe. The ART should be completed within 24 hours before the expected end of their return to the workplace, and the employee should only return if tested negative. This should also apply to employees, on-site contractors and vendors, who need to return to the workplace for ad hoc reasons.

Social Responsibility

11. PEIs must adhere to all prevailing SMMs on screening, hygiene and safe distancing:

- a) Screening: Students and staff who are unwell, or who have household members on Home Quarantine Order/Stay Home Notice or have adult household members with flu-like symptoms such as fever and cough, are required to stay away from school and campus.
- b) Hygiene: High-touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently, and disinfection of premises should be carried out daily, if not more frequently.
- c) Safe distancing: All students and staff are to wear masks at all times¹. There should be staggered arrival and dismissal to reduce congestion and intermingling among students in school and on campus.

¹ Children under 6 years old are not required to wear masks. Nonetheless, they are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield.

12. PEIs should regularly remind all students and staff that if they are unwell, even with mild flu-like symptoms, they should see a doctor immediately. They should minimize in-person interactions and isolate themselves at home as far as possible, unless they need to attend to essential activities (such as medical appointments). Students and staff should adopt safe distancing and good hygiene practices at all times.

Compliance with COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act [New]

13. Government agencies will be conducting inspections to check on the proper implementation of the SMMs. **Under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act, first-time offenders will face a fine of up to S\$10,000, imprisonment of up to six months, or both. For subsequent offences, they may face a fine of up to S\$20,000, imprisonment of up to twelve months, or both.**

14. PEIs that do not implement or comply with the government's SMMs may be ineligible for government grants, loans, tax rebates and other assistance, and may also be subject to temporary closures.

15. Please contact us via CPE_Registration@ssg.gov.sg if you require any clarification. Thank you.

Stabilisation Period Measures – Schools (updated/new areas in red)

- **[updated]** Home-based learning will be conducted for primary school students for a period of two weeks.
- **[updated]** CCAs, enrichment activities, after-school activities and post-exam activities are suspended.
- **[updated]** Students to be seated according to fixed exam-style seating arrangements in classrooms with group work up to **2 persons (instead of 5 previously)**.
- **[updated]** During recess, students have fixed single seating with 1m spacing. There should be no interaction among the students and all unstructured play activities should be suspended.
- **[updated]** All indoor mask-off activities during PE are suspended. Mask-off activities in groups of 2 can be conducted outdoors.
- **[updated]** Mask-off music and drama classes are to be suspended except for O/A-level music candidates, who can continue with exam preparations with testing.
- School-based examinations should still be carried out in classrooms or with no more than 50 students per venue.
- **[updated]** For Sec/JCCI national and school-based examinations, they can be conducted in school hall with no more than 250 students, in zones of 50 each. Students are to be seated more than 1.5m apart. If air-conditioning is used, schools are advised to ventilate the halls in between, before and after examinations.
- **[updated]** Schools are to strictly regulate the usage of enclosed common areas (e.g. library) with strict cohortisation and supervision.
- **[updated]** Only low intensity activities (i.e. masks on at all times) with wipe down and enforcement of the safe distancing measures are to be strictly regulated in the school gyms.
- Staff professional development should be conducted virtually as a default. Essential meetings which cannot be effectively conducted online may continue to be held on a face-to-face basis.

Stabilisation Period Measures – IHLs (updated/new areas in red)

- **[updated]** Overall, on-campus presence for students should be capped at no more than 60% of the total student enrolment at any given point in time.
- **[updated]** Lecture sizes are to be kept at 250 (including instructors) if all students are vaccinated, or to be capped at 50. Class sizes are to be kept at no more than 50 persons (including trainers). Group sizes must be capped at **2**.
- **[updated]** Examinations are capped at no more than 250 persons, including invigilators/ staff, with five zones of up to 50 persons.
- **[updated]** Graduation ceremonies should adhere to tightened SMMs for events that involve seated audience, i.e. up to 500 participants may be allowed with pre-event testing, with no more than 50 pax per zone.
- **[updated]** Dine-in at canteens, halls and designated classrooms will be allowed in groups of no more than **2 persons (instead of 5 previously)**, with at least 1 metre distancing between individuals, or if this is not possible, at least 1 metre distancing between groups of no more than **2 persons (instead of 5 previously)**. There should be at least 1 metre distancing between persons in queues. Individuals should mask up when not consuming food and beverage and leave the dining hall immediately after finishing their meals.

Stabilisation Period Measures – Preschools

- Staff/ children with a positive ART test may not enter the preschool, but should visit a Swab and Send Home (SASH) clinic immediately for a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test and return only after receiving a negative PCR test and are well.
- External visitors are restructured to those needed to support the running of preschools, and perform necessary options. All parents are restricted from entry regardless of vaccination status.
- Enrichment programmes to be conducted online or suspended until further notice.
- To strictly segregate children by class and ensure that there is no mixing or combining of children across classes.
- To avoid mixing children and staff from different classes during arrival, dismissal and mealtimes, to minimise risk of cross-transmission across classes.
- If meals are taken in a common dining space, SMMs such as staggered mealtimes and cleaning of surfaces between classes must be adhered to.
- Volume during activities should be kept low, as actions such as speaking/ singing loudly increase expulsion of droplets that may contain viral particles.
- Outdoor activities in public spaces must be carried out in no more than 2 children instead of 5. There should be 1m between groups, with children cohorted by classes.
- Activities conducted at external venues (e.g. field trips, learning journeys) and other large group activities (e.g. assemblies) remain suspended.
- Staff meetings and training to be conducted virtually.
- All social gatherings between staff are suspended until further notice. Social gatherings should also not be organised outside the workplace.