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## UPDATED CIRCULAR ON SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRED FOR HOSTELS

1. On 11 March 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced it would resume our transition to resilience and proceed to simplify and streamline Safe Management Measures (SMMs). In line with this, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has updated the SMMs applicable to hostels.
2. We strongly urge hostels to continue surveillance and monitoring of potential non-compliance within their premises. STB takes a serious view on establishments who do not comply with the SMMs and will continue to take strict enforcement action against all establishments who breach them.
3. The information in this circular (which includes its annexes) supersedes that in previous advisories or statements.

### **Key Updates to SMMs (with effect from 15 March 2022 unless otherwise stated below):**

#### Leisure Bookings, Non-Leisure guests and Mask-wearing

1. With immediate effect, hostels are permitted to accept leisure bookings, provided that all guests accommodated in any room must be pursuant to a single booking (i.e. different groups of guests cannot share a room).
2. Hostels must require all guests to declare whether their booking is for the purposes of leisure, and keep such declaration for at least 28 days after the end of the guests' stay. Guests staying for non-leisure purposes must not be allocated the same room as guests staying for leisure purposes.
3. Hostels must allow no more than 5 individuals (including guests and visitors) gathering at any one time in any guest room or in any pair of adjoining guest rooms where the connecting door(s) may be opened by guests during the stay (i.e. inter-accessible rooms), except where the individuals are all from the same household (i.e. same address), and even then up to the maximum number of occupants for the room type, whichever is the lower.
4. SMMs for non-leisure guests remains unchanged. The alternate bedding arrangement continues to apply.
5. Guests staying for non-leisure purposes must not be allocated the same room as guests staying for leisure purposes.
6. Mask-wearing will continue to be required as a default. There are no new exceptions.

#### Safe Distancing

7. Safe distancing is encouraged but **not required between individuals or groups in all mask-on settings.**
8. Safe distancing will **continue to be required for all mask-off settings.**



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#### Workplace Requirements

9. The current posture of allowing up to 50% of employees who can work from home to return to the office will be maintained.
10. Employees who have their masks on will not need to maintain safe distancing of at least 1m in the workplace.
11. Social gatherings at workplaces will be allowed with up to 5 masked employees for each social gathering.
12. There will be no restrictions on cross-deployment of employees across workplaces, although employers may continue to do so for business continuity reasons.

#### Reopening of Communal Spaces

13. All recreational facilities within the hostel premises are permitted to reopen, subject to prevailing regulations and the relevant Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures<sup>1</sup> ("VDS").

#### Sport and Physical Exercise and Activity

14. For more details, please refer to Sport Singapore's advisory<sup>2</sup>.

#### Adjustments to Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS)

15. Unvaccinated children aged 12 years and below need not be from the same household to be included within a group entering premises or participating in activities with VDS.

#### Checking in ART positive guests

16. Hostels are permitted to check-in guests who test positive on an ART. However, they must be allocated private ensuite rooms and remain isolated until recovery, and they must not be permitted access to communal facilities. There is no need for segregated check-in arrangements for ART positive guests.
17. To facilitate VTL and Category I<sup>3</sup> travellers waiting to take an ART within 24 hours of arrival, hostels are allowed to check-in such guests limited only to private ensuite rooms. Upon completion of test and submission of results, the travellers can be allocated to the respective rooms based on their health status
18. For guests who test ART positive during their stay, they must be moved to a private ensuite room to isolate and recover. Hostels without private ensuite rooms may arrange for the guests to return to their place of residence in Singapore or to transfer to a hostel/hotel that has private ensuite rooms and are accepting ART positive guests.

<sup>1</sup> More details on VDS available at <https://file.go.gov.sg/vdsminfo.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/-/media/FAQs-on-SMM-for-Sport\\_PE\\_PA-from-15-March-2022-\(issued-13-Mar-2022\)/SMMs\\_for\\_Sport\\_PE\\_PA\\_from-15-March-2022-\(issued-13-March-2022\).pdf](https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/-/media/FAQs-on-SMM-for-Sport_PE_PA-from-15-March-2022-(issued-13-Mar-2022)/SMMs_for_Sport_PE_PA_from-15-March-2022-(issued-13-March-2022).pdf)

<sup>3</sup> More details available at <https://safetravel.ica.gov.sg/shn-and-swab-summary>



**Hostels must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements as outlined in Annex A of this hostel circular and in the advisories of the applicable agencies.**

4. The hostel industry plays a critical role in keeping Singapore safe, and it is imperative that the industry remains vigilant and disciplined in maintaining health and safety protocols.
5. Vaccination remains critical in our fight against the pandemic. Hostels should also strongly encourage any remaining un-vaccinated employees to get vaccinated.
6. Hostels should review and reinforce current SMMs and remind employees to take all the prevailing measures seriously even if they have been vaccinated.

#### **A. Implementation of Safe Management Measures**

7. Operators of hostels are permitted enterprises allowed to open their premises to carry on the business of providing accommodation. STB, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Enterprise Singapore (ESG), and MOH have drawn up SMMs and certain restrictions specifically for hostels. As updated, they are:
  - 7.1. Hostels must comply with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures)(Reopening – Control Order) Regulations 2022, COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020<sup>4</sup>, the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021 (collectively “Control Order”) and the SMMs found in Annex A.
8. Hostels may resume operations for communal recreational spaces and certain facilities on their premises, subject to compliance with Sector Specific Requirements<sup>5</sup> in addition to the Control Order. Activities that may continue are summarised below:
  - 8.1. **F&B Dine-in** must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Enterprise Singapore (ESG) for F&B establishments. For clarity, the prohibition against sale, service and consumption of alcohol after 10.30pm rule includes in-room service as well. This is consistent with all F&B establishments including takeaways and delivery.
  - 8.2. **Sports and exercise environments, including gyms**, must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sport Singapore’s (SportsSG) for sports facilities<sup>6</sup>.
  - 8.3. **Pools** must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sports SG for sports facilities.

<sup>4</sup> <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/SL/COVID19TMA2020-S254-2020>

<sup>5</sup> <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector>

<sup>6</sup> For full details, see <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector> (see section on “Sports sector enterprises, sports education, and premises with sports facilities”)



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9. While the majority of the SMMs mentioned in this circular (including its annexes) are drawn from the Control Order and are summarised for the convenience of hostels, this circular is not exhaustive, and the prevailing Control Order will prevail in case of any inconsistency.
10. The details in this circular are provided to help hostels develop their plans and implement the necessary SMMs for providing accommodation safely. These plans will have to be tailored to the specific nature of operations in each hostel, and potential risk factors arising from localised factors such as the physical premises and layout, environment, scale of operations, and typical guest behaviour.
11. Hostels shall submit a set of required data as required by STB e.g every quarterly. Submissions are to be made at [go.gov.sg/covid19-hostel-updates](https://go.gov.sg/covid19-hostel-updates). Information collected will be used only as internal reference for public policy purposes and will not be shared with other hostels.
12. Hostels are required to inform STB immediately whenever there are a total of 10 or more positive COVID-19 cases over 3 consecutive days at the hostel<sup>7</sup>, providing such particulars of the case as may be requested by STB, via <https://form.gov.sg/615dc38cd1067600122e5c3a>.

## **B. Enforcement of Safe Management Measures**

13. Under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020, first-time offenders may be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to six months, or both. Repeat offenders may be fined up to \$20,000, imprisoned up to twelve months, or both. Businesses that are not compliant may be ordered to cease business activities or close altogether. Under the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021, businesses that fail to comply with requirements thereunder will face a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and attendees that fail to comply will face a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. Businesses that are not compliant may also be ineligible for government grants, loans, tax rebates and other assistance.
14. For any enquiries, please contact STB.

## **Annex A – COVID-19 Measures for Accommodation Providers**

Thank you.

**SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD**  
**Updated as of 18 March 2022**

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<sup>7</sup> Includes guests and visitors that have patronised or visited the hostel, and hostel staff.