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UPDATED CIRCULAR ON SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRED FOR HOSTELS

1. On 24 March 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced it would ease Safe Management Measures (SMMs) and make further progress towards living with COVID-19. 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 29 March 2022 unless otherwise stated below):

Mask Wearing

1. Mask wearing remains mandatory indoors, but not in outdoor settings¹ or where allowed at law (e.g. when a guest is in his or her guest room, when engaging in strenuous physical exercise, eating, drinking, etc.). Individuals may still choose to wear their masks outdoors for personal protection, e.g. if in crowded areas.

Safe Distancing and Group Size

2. Safe distancing is encouraged but **not required between individuals or groups in all mask-on settings**. A safe distance of at least 1 metre will continue to be required for mask-off settings.
3. The permissible group size for social gatherings will be increased to 10 individuals for mask-off activities.

Shared Rooms

4. Multiple bookings per room are permitted even for leisure guests (i.e. different groups of leisure guests can share a room).
5. Leisure and non-leisure guests are no longer prohibited from sharing the same room.
6. 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.

¹ Outdoor settings means any area that is not substantially enclosed in a manner that impedes natural lateral airflow to and from the area, including sheltered walkways, sheltered bus stops and areas under retractable canopies



Room Capacity

7. Room capacity has been increased in the following manner:

Type of Occupant	Room Capacity
Leisure guests only or Non-leisure guests only, with bedding for 20 or fewer guests	Up to 10 guests in any room or in any pair of adjoining rooms where the connected door(s) may be opened by guests during the stay (i.e. inter-accessible rooms), except where the individuals are from the same household (i.e. same address), and even then up to the maximum number of occupants for the room type, whichever is lower. No requirement for alternate bunk bed occupancy and minimum 1-metre distancing between beds.
Mix of leisure and non-leisure guests	Up to 10 guests in any guest room or in any pair of adjoining guest rooms where the connected door(s) may be opened by guests during the stay (i.e. inter-accessible rooms) or up to the maximum number of occupants for the room type, whichever is lower. No requirement for alternate bunk bed occupancy and minimum 1-metre distancing between beds.
Non-leisure guests only, with bedding for more than 20 guests	No cap on the number of guests. Single beds must be placed at least 1 metre apart, and bunk beds must only be occupied such that each level of a bunk bed must not be adjacent to an occupied level of an adjacent bunk bed (i.e. chequerboard fashion).
Visitors	Up to 10 visitors to any room at any one time.

Workplace Requirements

8. Up to 75% of employees who can work from home can return to the workplace.



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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. Hostels must comply with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures)(Reopening – Control Order) Regulations 2022, COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020², the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021 (collectively “Control Order”) and the SMMs found in **Annex A** and in the Sector Specific Requirements³ of the relevant agencies:

7.1 **F&B Dine-in** must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Enterprise Singapore (ESG) for F&B establishments.

7.2 **Sports and exercise environments, including gyms**, must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sport Singapore’s (SportsSG) for sports facilities⁴.

7.3 **Pools** must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sports SG for sports facilities.

7.4 **Live performances** held in hostels must comply with the prevailing capacity guidelines and must comply with NAC⁵ for live performances.

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Hostels shall submit a set of required data as required by STB (e.g quarterly). Submissions are to be made at <https://go.gov.sg/covid19-hostelupdates>. Information collected will be used only as internal reference for public policy purposes and will not be shared with other hostels.

² <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/SL/COVID19TMA2020-S254-2020>

³ <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector>

⁴ For full details, see <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector> (see section on “Sports sector enterprises, sports education, and premises with sports facilities”)

⁵ <https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector/> (see section on “Arts and Culture”)



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11. Hostels are required to inform STB immediately whenever there are a total of 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases over 3 consecutive days at the hostel⁶, providing such particulars of the case as may be requested by STB, via <https://form.gov.sg/615dc38cd1067600122e5c3a>.

B. Enforcement of Safe Management Measures

12. 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.
13. For any enquiries, please contact STB.

Annex A – Safe Management Measures and Protocols for Accommodation Providers (Hostels)

Thank you.

SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD
Updated as of 28 March 2022

⁶ Includes guests and visitors that have patronised or visited the hostel, and hostel staff.