

CPE 46th Advisory: Resumption of Activities in Private Education Institutions from 10 August 2021

Dear Sirs,

1. On 6 Aug 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced a gradual easing of community Safe Management Measures (SMMs), as Singapore transits towards COVID Resilience. The adjustments will take effect from **10 August 2021**. The media releases from MTF and MOE are attached below:



MTF PR -Transition
towards COVID Resilience



MOE PR-
Resumption of activities in
Private Education Institutions
from 10 August 2021

[Updated] National Safe Management Measures

2. Private Education Institutions (PEIs) must adhere to all prevailing national SMMs. This includes but is not limited to the following, which will take effect from 10 August 2021:

Increase in Social Gathering Group Size

3. Increase of permissible group sizes for social gatherings from two persons to maximum of five persons per group. Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to remain in groups of no more than 2 persons, to reduce the likelihood of transmission and severe infection.

Vaccination Differentiated SMMs (VDS) for Higher-Risk Activities

4. As fully-vaccinated individuals have better protection against infection and severe illness, they may participate in higher-risk mask-off indoor activities like food & beverage (F&B) dine-in and indoor high-intensity mask-off sports, in up to groups of five. An individual is considered fully-vaccinated two weeks after he or she has received the full regimen of Pfizer-BioNTech/ Comirnaty, Moderna, or any vaccines in the World Health Organisation's Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL), such as Sinovac-CoronaVac, Sinopharm, and AstraZeneca.

5. Unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test (PET) result within 24 hours of the activity or event, or individuals who recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the last 270 days are of similarly lower risk¹, and may also join in such groups of five.

¹ PEIs may verify the individuals' recovered status via HealthHub.

F&B Establishments on PEI Premises

6. Specific to F&B outlets, groups of up to 5 persons will be allowed to dine-in at F&B establishments on PEI premises, only if all the diners are vaccinated, or are a recovered patient, or have a valid negative COVID-19 test within 24 hours of the dine-in period. Unvaccinated children aged 12 years and below may be included within the group of 5 persons as long as all the children are from the same household.

7. Individual F&B establishments on PEI premises may only resume dine-in services for fully vaccinated persons, and any other such persons as outlined in Para 6. F&B establishments that are not able to ensure this may only operate take-away and delivery services.

8. For F&B establishments that are licensed coffee shops, hawker centres or canteens, a concession will be given to allow group sizes of up to 2 persons regardless of vaccination status to dine-in at these venues. These establishments must hold a “Foodshop (Canteen)” or “Foodshop (Coffee shop)” license from the Singapore Food Agency (SFA). All F&B establishments should also take reference from any guidance issued by SFA or Enterprise Singapore.

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

[Updated] Sector-Specific Guidelines for Higher Risk Activities

10. 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>

11. Live Performances: Live performances may resume, subject to the relevant SMMs outlined in para 4b of NAC’s advisory. PEIs must seek approval from SSG prior to organising live performances.

[Updated] Safe management measures in ECDA-registered preschools, MOE schools and IHLs

12. In addition to the above, PEIs are advised to take reference from the plans and safe management measures for ECDA-registered preschools, MOE schools and IHLs in Annex A, and may decide if they wish to adopt tightened measures over and above the national SMMs.

[Updated] Workplace Measures

13. PEIs are reminded to continue to adhere to the tightened SMMs for the workplace. **Working from home remains the default arrangement.** PEIs should ensure all staff who are able to work from home continue to do so, continue to stagger start times of employees who need to return to the workplace, and implement flexible working hours. There should continue to be no cross-deployment of staff as a default. All social gatherings at the workplace must be cancelled or deferred.

14. From **19 August 2021**, if the situation remains stable, up to 50% of employees who can work from home will be allowed to return to the workplace. . Please refer to the MOM [website](#) for the full workplace SMMs.

[New] ‘Vaccinate or Regular Test’ Regime for PEI staff from 1 October 2021

15. From now until 30 September 2021, we strongly encourage all PEI staff to get vaccinated if they are medically eligible and have not done so.

16. From 1 October 2021, the “Vaccinate or Regular Test” regime will commence for all PEI staff who come into regular contact with students below 12 years old. Unvaccinated persons in this group will be required to take an Antigen Rapid Test (ART) twice a week. Only fully vaccinated persons will be exempted from regular testing. Further details on the groups of staff affected and details about implementation will be shared with PEIs subsequently.

[Updated] Update to FET Regime to include Cleaners in Settings with children under 12 years old (For strict compliance)

17. Currently, the groups of staff (including part-time employees) that will need to undergo the Fast and Easy Testing (FET) regime under PEIs are as follows:

- a) All staff teaching in mask-off settings such as dance, singing, wind/brass instruments, voice and theatre training, physical education and other sports-related activities;
- b) All staff working in a gym and/or fitness studio with individuals who are unmasked;
- c) All cleaners hired directly by PEIs or contract cleaning staff if they clean in a high-risk setting where individuals are unmasked (e.g. canteens, sports facilities); and
- d) All F&B staff hired directly by PEIs e.g. canteen staff.

18. MOH has reassessed that cleaners in settings with unvaccinated children under 12 years old are at higher risk of being infected and of transmitting the virus to these children. Thus, **all cleaners operating in settings with children under 12 years old are required to undergo FET with effect from 30 August 2021, with the first test for this group to be conducted within 14 days (i.e. by 6 September).** This includes cleaners hired directly by PEIs, as well as contract cleaners.

19. Like before, ART kits will be provided at no cost to PEIs, until 30 September 2021.

For PEIs already on the FET regime

20. PEIs POCs that need to update the nominal roll to include more staff, are to:

- a) Update Nominal Roll (see Attachment 1) with details of new staff undergoing Employer-Supervised Self-Swab (ESSS).
- b) Submit details via the following FormSG link (<https://go.gov.sg/moe-fet-update-details>) by **13 August, 12pm**.

- c) PEIs may also use the same link in Para 20(b) to make changes to the Nominal Roll (NR) and Point of Contact (POC) going forward.



21. PEI POCs that need to replenish the ART kits are to:

- a) Login to <http://go.gov.sg/fet-kits> with their contact number and email address to self-order the ART test kits replenishments. This is applicable for the **second batch of ART test kits and subsequent cycles**.
- b) Cater for a lead time of at least 7 working days when ordering the replenishments, and each order should be capped at one-month supply of ART test kits.




For PEIs that are not on the FET regime yet

22. PEIs that are not on board the FET regime yet, are to:

- a) Nominate **PEI POCs (at most 2 per premise)**, who are responsible for the overall implementation of ESSS in the PEI. Responsibilities of the PEI POCs include updating the nominal roll of staff to be tested, determining the number of ART test kits required and managing the SRS account.
- b) Nominate **2 employees per premise as supervisors** to supervise the required staff performing self-swab. Please see Attachment 2 for Health Promotion Board (HPB)'s guidelines for supervisors. Nominated supervisors will have to attend a 4-hour virtual Supervisory Training in ART Self-Swab.
- c) **Complete Nominal Roll for all staff** (see Attachment 1) required to undergo FET.
- d) **Determine number of test kits to be ordered, based on Nominal Roll**. The mode of distribution for the kits will be as follows:
- For 75 kits or less (monthly), self-collection. PEIs should be typically assigned a pick-up point within 2km of its address.
 - For 76 kits or more (monthly), direct delivery to PEI designated premise.
- e) Submit all relevant details (including those stated in Para. 22a) to 22c) via the following FormSG link (<https://go.gov.sg/prb4jv>) by **13 August, 12pm**.

Attachment 1	 Attachment 1 - FET Staff NR for PEIs (Au
Attachment 2	 Attachment 2 - Supervisor Guidelines

23. PEIs should refer to **CPE's 42nd and 43rd Advisory** for further details on the implementation of the FET regime. Please also refer to the appended PDF **(new)** for the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on FET regime.

42nd Advisory	 Email 42nd Advisory to all PEIs on prep for
43rd Advisory	 Email 43rd Advisory to all PEIs on additic
FAQs (New)	 FAQ for FET.pdf

24. PEIs must ensure that their Supervisors under the FET regime have attended the 4-hour virtual Supervisory Training in ART Self-Swab that is conducted by the Ministry of Health's appointed training provider, HMI Institute of Health Sciences Pte Ltd before they perform their supervisory role. PEIs are not required to submit supervisor details to CPE.

25. Supervisors can proceed to conduct ART supervision duties once they have completed the training. A certificate will be provided one month after the course. Training will be at no cost until 30 September 2021, and PEIs can register for the training directly at <https://hmi-ihhs.com/supervisory-training-in-art-self-swab/>. Supervisors are advised to register for the training early as the training slots will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Social Responsibility

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

- 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.
- Hygiene: High-touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently, and disinfection of premises should be carried out daily, if not more frequently.
- Safe distancing: All students and staff are to wear masks at all times². There should be staggered arrival and dismissal to reduce congestion and intermingling among students in school and on campus.

² Children under 6 years old are not required to wear masks. Nonetheless, they are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield.

27. 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 minimise 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.

PEIs that are SSG Registered Training Providers

28. PEIs that are SSG registered Training Providers must also comply with **SSG Circular/PPD/2021/17: Advisory on the additional guidelines under Phase Two (Heightened Alert) from 10 August 2021**.

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

Updated Safe Management Measures 2021 - Schools

- **[Updated]** Indoor and outdoor mask-on activities, as well as outdoor mask-off activities will be allowed in groups of up to five pax.
- **[Updated]** In person centre-based classes can resume,
- **[Updated]** For physical education classes primary schools will only conduct individual mask-off activities with no group activities allowed.
- **[Updated]** For physical education classes at secondary and pre-university levels, group activities may resume. Safe distancing should be at least 2m and 3m between individuals and group activities respectively. There should be no mask-off physical activities held at small enclosed venues (e.g., indoor air-con spaces, health and fitness room)
- Mask-off music and drama classes will continue to be suspended.
- **[Updated]** Secondary schools, JCs, MI and SPED schools (with senior/secondary sections) will resume in-person Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs). In addition, in-person activities involving external vendors or conducted at external venues, may also resume, up to a cap of 50 pax (in strict adherence to national guidelines).
- In-person CCAs will remain suspended in primary schools.
- **[Updated]** Primary schools will resume outdoor mask-on unstructured play within their classes.

Updated Safe Management Measures – IHLs

- 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.
- To minimise risk of transmission on campus, IHLs must continue to cap in-person classes at no more than 50 persons, including the trainer(s). Classes or lectures with more than 50 persons must be conducted online.
- **[Updated]** Group work, if required, should be done in groups of not more than 5 persons, in line with the permitted group size for social gatherings, which will be increased from 2 persons to 5 persons.
- All in-person events that involve more than 50 persons are to be postponed or cancelled.
- **[Updated]** Student activities can resume on campus.
 - For outdoor activities (mask-on and mask-off) and indoor mask-on activities, in-person class must be capped at no more than 50 persons, including the trainers and in groups of no more than 5 persons. There should be 1m distancing between individuals. If this is not possible, there should at least be 1m distancing between groups of no more than 5 persons.
 - For indoor mask-off activities like strenuous physical activities, VDS will apply. In-person class must be capped at no more than 30 persons, including the trainers and in groups of no more than 5 persons, all of whom must be fully vaccinated. There should be 1m distancing between individuals. If this is not possible, there should at least be 1m distancing between groups of no more than 5 persons. Unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test (PET) result within 24 hours of the activity or event, or individuals who recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the last 270 days are of similarly lower risk, and may also join in such groups of 5.
- **[Updated]** As a default, F&B outlets will only allow groups of up to 5 persons to dine-in, only if all diners are fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated diners can continue to use takeaway services. For dining-in, there should be at least 1 metre distancing between groups of no more than 5 fully-vaccinated persons. There should be at least 1 metre distancing between persons in queues. Individuals should mask up when not consuming food and beverages.

Updated Safe Management Measures – ECDA-registered Preschools

Visitor Management

- Only visitors needed to support the running of preschools may enter the premises. All parents are restricted from entering the premises.
- Visitors should keep a safe distance of least 2 metres from staff and children.
- Designate a 'drop-off point' outside the preschool for deliveries and ensure proper sanitisation and wiping down of all goods and items that are delivered.
- **[Updated] From 19 August 2021**, preschools may allow parents of newly enrolled children into the preschool premises, subject to the following SMMs:
 - Only 1 parent may accompany the newly enrolled child and there only be a total of one parent in a class on any given day.
 - Parents accompanying newly enrolled children should either be fully vaccinated
 - Parent may accompany their child for only half a day for the first 2 days of preschool.
 - Parents accompanying their children should limit interactions to only their child and child's teacher(s) / centre's principal.

Classrooms

- To segregate children by class and ensure that there is no mixing across classes.
- Larger classes should be spilt into smaller groups of no more than 10 children, where reasonably practicable to do so, with no interaction between groups.
- Enrichment classes should be moved online. If it is not possible, external persons providing such programmes must be limited to physically serve no more than 1 preschool.
- All higher risk, mask-off enrichment programmes (e.g. those involving wind instruments) must be suspended during this period.

Small Group Activities within each class

- Children are to have meals in their respective classrooms. If meals have to be taken in a common dining space:
 - Stagger meal times with no mixing of classes
 - Seat children as far apart as reasonably practicable
 - Preschools may consider the usage of desk shield / Plexiglass barriers where space is more restricted. These should be wiped down and cleaned after every use.
 - Surfaces are to be cleaned before the commencement of meals for the next class.
- To keep volume low, in order to minimise expulsion of droplets. There should not be any loud singing.

Large group activities (e.g. learning journeys, assemblies)

- Activities conducted at external venues (e.g. field trips, learning journeys, swimming) and other large group activities (e.g. assemblies) are to be suspended

Outdoor Activities

- **[Updated] From 10 August 2021**, Preschools may continue to carry out outdoor activities in public spaces within the vicinity. However, preschools must now do so in

small groups of no more than 5 children instead of 2, in line with the increase in group sizes.

- Preschools must ensure that there is safe distancing of at least 1 metre between groups and children remain separated by their classes/ groups within their class.
- Staff-child ratios for outdoor activities must be met.
- Stagger classes when going outdoors.
- Classes should be separated during outdoor play.
- Refrain from carrying out vigorous outdoor activities. Children should wear masks or face shields outdoors, as far as possible.
- Children must practice hand hygiene before and after going outdoors. This also applies to staff accompanying the children.

Staff Deployment and Training

- All staff must not be cross deployed across preschools.
- To avoid mixing children and staff from different classes to minimise risk of cross-transmission across classes.
- Deployment of core programme staff (i.e. extended hours in preschool, sustained close contact with children) should be limited to no more than 2 classes, as far as possible.
- To conduct all staff meetings and training virtually, e.g. by using tele-conferencing facilities.
- All social gatherings between staff will remain suspended until further notice.