

1 OCTOBER 2021

Dear Enterprises

## **[UPDATED] FAST AND EASY TESTING FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND STUDENT HOSTELS SECTOR**

1. Since late-June 2021, the Fast and Easy Testing (“**FET**”) regime has been progressively rolled out for all higher risk sectors, including specified employees and persons who work under their direction (e.g. contractors and subcontractors) in the Hospitality and student hostels sector (i.e. Housekeeping, Front Office, Bell Hop, Concierge, Security). **With effect from 15 July 2021 onwards, all enterprises in the Hospitality and Student Hostels sector<sup>1</sup> (“Enterprises”) must comply with the mandatory requirements set out in this updated notice.**

### **Background**

2. The purpose of the FET regime is to further reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in settings with unmasked guests, or where services are performed under prolonged and close contact with guests, or where there are frequent interactions with the community. Under the FET regime, enterprises are required to ensure that their employees and persons who work under their direction (e.g. contractors and subcontractors) undergo regular FET using the COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (“**ART**”), regardless of their vaccination status. Self-employed persons working in these settings should also ensure that they adhere to the FET regime.
3. The FET regime and the mandatory requirements set out in this notice are imposed on Enterprises under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020. Failure to comply with the requirements set out herein may result in prosecution and/or other enforcement action, including suspension/closure of operations<sup>2</sup>. Checks will be conducted by enforcement teams to verify if Enterprises have complied with the mandatory requirements set out in this notice.

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<sup>1</sup> Enterprises include operators of hotels, hostels, and service apartments. Individuals who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the past 270 days are exempted from the FET Requirement.

<sup>2</sup> Enterprises are reminded to comply with the other requirements imposed under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 and implement the Safe Management Measures (“**SMMs**”) as set out on the [COVID Gobusiness website](#). They are also reminded to comply with the relevant [SMMs](#) that have been set out by Enterprise Singapore (ESG), Housing & Development Board (HDB), Singapore Food Agency (SFA), Sport Singapore (SportSG), National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA).

## FET Requirements for Enterprises

4. **[Mandatory]** All Enterprises must ensure that their employees<sup>3</sup> and persons who work under their direction or within the hotel premises<sup>4</sup> (collectively, “**Workers**”) in the following functions:

- (1) Housekeeping (Laundry/ room and public area cleaning); or
- (2) Front Office, Bell Hop, Concierge, or Security (**Only for Enterprises who provide accommodation to persons on Stay-Home Notice (SHN) who can opt out of SHN dedicated facilities**).

undergo FET once every 7 days (the “**FET Requirement**”). Dine-in F&B outlets, function areas, club lounges, in-room dining, staff canteen, massage establishments, pools, gyms, fitness centres and other personal care services should refer to the respective FET Notices on <https://gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector/>.

5. **[Mandatory]** After their Workers undergo FET, Enterprises must verify<sup>5</sup> each Worker’s test results.
6. Where the Worker has obtained an “AG+” (positive result to an ART) test result, Enterprises are strongly recommended to guide the Worker to comply with the prevailing management postures for such cases as set out on MOH’s website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>.
7. To meet the FET Requirement, Enterprises are to conduct **Employer-Supervised Self-Swab (“ESSS”)** for their Workers. Details on how to conduct ESSS are set out in paragraphs 8 to 14 below. The costs for the ART test kits that will be used for ESSS and the training required for Enterprises that wish to conduct ESSS will be borne by the Government until 31 December 2021.

## Requirements for Enterprises conducting ESSS

8. ESSS involves Workers using an ART kit and performing a swab on themselves under the supervision of a trained supervisor (“**Supervisor**”). The swabbing and supervision can be done either at the workplace or virtually using tools such as video conferencing.
9. **[Mandatory]** To satisfy the FET Requirement, Enterprises conducting ESSS for their Workers must:
- (1) appoint an adequate number of Supervisors to supervise every Worker whenever they carry out the swabs on themselves;

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<sup>3</sup> This includes both full and part time employees as well as casual labour.

<sup>4</sup> This includes contractors, subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace (e.g. cleaners).

<sup>5</sup> Enterprises are required to inspect any physical test result slip, SMS or test kit evidencing the test result of the Worker. It would not be sufficient for Enterprises to rely on oral statements by Workers to fulfill this obligation.

- (2) ensure that the Supervisor has satisfied the training requirements set out under paragraph 10 below and properly performs his supervisory role<sup>6</sup>;
  - (3) ensure that Workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 13 below and properly perform the swabs on themselves;
  - (4) ensure that the test results obtained by Workers from ESSS are uploaded on the Swab Registration System (“**SRS**”) in accordance with the requirements set out under paragraph 14 below; and
  - (5) ensure that the ART test kits used for ESSS are those that are set out on the Health Sciences Authority’s website at [https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/covid19\\_ARTselftests](https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/covid19_ARTselftests)
- 9A. Where the Workers have obtained an “AG+” test result while conducting ESSS, Enterprises are recommended to strongly encourage them to undertake a follow-up ART test and to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on MOH’s website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>. The follow-up ART test does not need to be carried out under supervision and the results do not need to be uploaded to SRS. Enterprises are to use self-sourced ART test kits for the follow-up ART test and not those that have been supplied by the Government under the FET regime.

#### *Training for Supervisors*

10. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises conducting ESSS must ensure that their Supervisors have attended the 4-hour virtual Supervisory Training in ART Self-Swab that is conducted by the Ministry of Health’s (“**MOH**”) appointed training provider, HMI Institute of Health Sciences Pte. Ltd. (“**HMI**”) before they perform their supervisory role. If a Supervisor is above 50-years-old, Enterprises must ensure that he or she is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. they received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination under Singapore’s national vaccination programme and 14 days have passed from the time of the second dose<sup>7</sup>) before they can perform any supervisory role.
11. Enterprises conducting ESSS are advised to nominate at least two Workers per outlet to undergo training to be a Supervisor. The training provided by HMI will equip Supervisors with the knowledge needed to supervise the conduct ESSS and a certificate of attendance will be issued to those who have completed it. The training provided by HMI is carried out daily from (a) 8am to 12pm, (b) 2pm to 6pm and (c) 6pm to 10pm on a first-come-first-served basis. Enterprises are advised to book their training slot directly with HMI at <https://hmi-ihc.com/supervisory-training-in-art-self-swab/> and to do so as soon as possible.

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<sup>6</sup> This includes wearing adequate personal protective equipment and maintaining appropriate infection prevention control procedures while conducting supervision.

<sup>7</sup> Enterprises can consider asking Supervisors to verify their vaccination status via TraceTogether.

12. Upon successful booking, HMI will send a web link for supervisors 1-2 days before the actual training day, to attend the virtual training session. Please visit HMI's website at <https://hmi-ihs.com> (refer to "COVID-19 Training") for latest details on the ESSS training.

### *Conduct of ESSS by Workers*

13. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to ensure that their Workers must:
- (1) be supervised<sup>8</sup> by a Supervisor whenever they carry out ESSS;
  - (2) use new ART test kits whenever they carry out ESSS; and
  - (3) properly dispose of used ART test kits after they have carried out ESSS<sup>9</sup>.

### *Uploading of Test Results onto SRS*

14. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to upload the test results obtained by their Workers from ESSS onto SRS in accordance with the following:
- (1) if the test result is "AG+", Enterprises are to upload the test result of that Worker onto SRS **no later than 30 minutes** after the ESSS for that specific Worker is completed;
  - (2) if the test result is "AG-", Enterprises are to upload the test result of that Worker **no later than 24 hours** after the ESSS for that specific Worker is completed; and
  - (3) the requirements set out under paragraphs 3 and 5 of **Annex A**.

### **Support for Enterprises conducting ESSS**

15. The Government will be supplying ART test kits to Enterprises until 31 December 2021. Hotels, Hostels and Service Apartments with a Certificate of Registration under the Hotels Act may submit the relevant information using the "[Order Form](#)" to place an order for the ART test kits. Enterprises that carry out their businesses across multiple premises (e.g. outlets) should submit a separate Order Form for each premises<sup>10</sup>. The ART test kits will be delivered to Enterprises on first-come-first-served basis. Enterprises must only use the ART test kits that are supplied by the Government for ESSS and must not sell, distribute, or otherwise supply the ART test kits provided for their specified employees and persons who work under their direction to any third party. ART Test Kits must be used with prudence and companies need to ensure that one employee only use one test kit for one cycle of RRT, unless the test result is AG invalid.

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<sup>8</sup> This can be done in person or virtually.

<sup>9</sup> Used test kits should be double-bagged and tied before disposing them in closed bins (e.g. pedal bins).

<sup>10</sup> For enterprises with multiple outlets under the same UEN, you may submit your request to create multiple SRS company accounts under the same UEN. However, there must be a unique mobile number and email address used for each account. Enterprises without a UEN can indicate their NRIC in the UEN field instead.

16. After submission of the Order Form, a confirmation email and SMS from a third-party vendor will be sent to your POC with the delivery date within a week.
17. The information that is submitted on the Order Form will also be used by the relevant Government agencies to help Enterprises set up an SRS account. Once the SRS account has been set up, your POC will receive an email notification informing them about the creation of the SRS account and how to upload test results onto it.

### **Support from Enterprises**



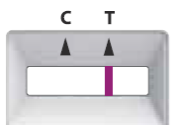
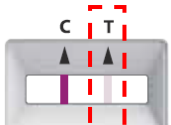
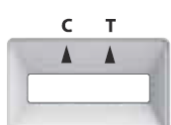
18. The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of everyone in the community. We seek the support and understanding of all Enterprises during this period. We will continue to review and adjust the measures in line with the national posture for the health and well-being of the public and employees.
19. Enterprises may contact the respective agencies for further clarifications:
  - Hotels, Hostels and Service Apartments with a Certificate of Registration under the Hotels Act: [hotelFET@stb.gov.sg](mailto:hotelFET@stb.gov.sg)
  - Service Apartments and student hostels that are not holding a Certificate of Registration under the Hotels Act and not located on State Land: [URA\\_SDMO\\_CLE@ura.gov.sg](mailto:URA_SDMO_CLE@ura.gov.sg)
  - Service Apartments and student hostels that are not holding a Certificate of Registration under the Hotels Act and are located on State Land: [www.sla.gov.sg/enquiry-feedback](http://www.sla.gov.sg/enquiry-feedback)

### **Annex A: FET Test Results and the Management of Workers after ESSS**

### FET Test Results and the Management of Workers after ESSS

1. Workers will be required to undergo ART to satisfy the FET Requirement. ART test kits will return one of three possible test results:
  - (1) negative or “**AG-**”;
  - (2) positive or “**AG+**”; or
  - (3) invalid or “**AG Invalid**”.
2. Workers that obtain an “**AG Invalid**” test result are required to immediately undergo a follow-up ART until they obtain an “**AG+**” or “**AG-**” test result.
3. If a Worker undergoes ART as part of ESSS, Image 1 below illustrates how the different test results will be shown on the SD Bio Sensor ART test kit (which will be the ART test kit distributed to Enterprises). Please note that the lines on the test kit cassette will appear in 15 – 30 minutes (“**Checking Window**”) after the specimen buffer has been added to the test well. Enterprises shall only upload the test results that are shown on the test kit cassette during the Checking Window onto SRS.

Image 1: Test results on SD Bio Sensor

| Negative Test Result<br>(‘AG-’)  | Positive Test Result<br>(‘AG+’)   | Invalid Test Result<br>(‘AG Invalid’)  |
|--|---|--|
|  <p><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘C’<br/>and<br/><u>No</u> marking at ‘T’</p> |  <p><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘C’<br/>and<br/><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘T’</p>  |  <p><u>No</u> marking at ‘C’<br/>and<br/><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘T’</p> |
|  |  <p><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘C’<br/>and<br/><u>Faint</u> marking at ‘T’</p> |  <p><u>No</u> marking at ‘C’<br/>and<br/><u>No</u> marking at ‘T’</p>   |

4. If a Worker undergoes ART as part of ESSS and uses an ART kit other than the SD Bio Sensor ART test kit, Enterprises are to refer to the manufacturer’s instructions on how to interpret the test results obtained by their Workers and only upload the test results that are obtained pursuant to these instructions onto SRS.
5. If the Enterprise had wrongly submitted a “AG+” result for a Worker on SRS, Enterprises must use this form to submit the details and updated result of the Worker - <https://go.gov.sg/artpositivenoncompliance>

6. Enterprises are strongly recommended to guide Workers that obtain “AG+” test results from ESSS to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on MOH's website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>

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