

21 October 2021 [Updated on 2 November 2021]

#### **FAST AND EASY TESTING FOR AIRPORT WORKERS**

1. Since late-June 2021, the Fast and Easy Testing ("FET") regime has been progressively rolled out for all higher risk sectors. With effect from 15 November 2021, all enterprises in the aviation sector¹ ("Enterprises") must comply with the mandatory requirements set out in this Notice. In particular, enterprises with employees currently undergoing the Airport Worker Polymerase Chain Reaction Rostered Routine Testing ("PCR-RRT") regime must switch to the FET regime in accordance with the timelines stated in paragraph 22. For avoidance of doubt, the mandatory requirements are specified in the paragraphs below prefaced with the words '[Mandatory]'

### **Background**

- 2. The purpose of the FET regime is to further reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in settings with unmasked clients, or where services are performed under prolonged and close contact with clients, 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.
- 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** Individuals who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection are exempted from the FET Requirement for a period of 270 days from the date they are tested positive. If the infection was more than 270 days ago, they can be exempted from the FET Requirement only if they are fully vaccinated. This includes persons who a) recovered from a COVID-19 infection and subsequently receives at least one dose of vaccine no earlier than 3 months (minimally 28 days) after date of positive PCR, and b) are fully vaccinated before being infected with COVID-19 and subsequently recovering from it. Persons who received one dose of vaccine before being infected would need to receive their 2nd dose to be exempted. For individuals who are re-infected, the 270 days exemption starts from the date of the first C+ result of the re-infection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** 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 <u>COVID Gobusiness website</u>. They are also reminded to comply with the relevant <u>SMMs</u> that have been set out by Government Agencies.

### **FET Requirements for Enterprises**

- 4. **[Mandatory]** All Enterprises must ensure that their employees<sup>3</sup> and persons who work under their direction<sup>4</sup> who meet any of the following criteria (individually "Worker" or collectively, "Workers"):
  - (1) Workers who normally interact with travellers
  - (2) Workers whose work involves handling of travellers' belongings
  - (3) Workers whose work involves touching of surfaces that travellers come into contact with

undergo FET once every 7 days (the "**7D FET Regime**") or twice every 7 days (the "**3D FET Regime**") as follows:

Risk category	FET Regime
High Risk (e.g. daily or frequent interactions with	Twice every 7 days (3D FET)
travellers/foreign crew, workers currently on 7-day	
PCR-RRT and D3 ART⁵)	
Moderate Risk (e.g. less or no frequent direct	Once every 7 days (7D FET)
interactions with travellers, workers currently on 14-	
day PCR-RRT and D7 ART)	

Enterprises should guide their Workers on the 3D FET Regime to maintain a 3 to 4 day interval between their weekly tests (e.g. if a Worker's first test of the week is carried out on Tuesday, his or her second test of the week should be carried out on Friday or Saturday).

- 5. **[Mandatory]** After their Worker undergoes FET, Enterprises shall verify<sup>6</sup> that Worker's test results.
- 6. Where the Worker has obtained an "AG+" test result, Enterprises are strongly recommended to guide the Worker to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on MOH's website at https://www.moh.gov.sg/.
- 7. **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** 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 9 to 16 below. The costs for the ART test kits that will be used for ESSS will be borne by the Government until 31 December 2021.
- 8. [Intentionally left blank]

#### Requirements for Enterprises conducting ESSS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This includes both full and part time employees.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. This also includes business owners and store managers that work at the workplace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Workers working in the highest risk zones may be undergoing 7-day PCR-RRT and twice a week Breathalyser tests in lieu of 7-day PCR-RRT and D3 ART. These workers will switch to the 3D FET regime as well.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</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.

- 9. 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.
- 10. **[Mandatory]** To satisfy the FET Requirement, Enterprises conducting ESSS for their Workers shall:
  - (1) appoint an adequate number of Supervisors to supervise their Workers whenever they carry out the swabs on themselves;
  - (2) **[Updated as of 8 November 2021]** ensure that the Supervisor has satisfied the training requirements set out under paragraph 11 below and properly performs his supervisory role<sup>7</sup>;
  - (3) ensure that Workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 14 below and properly perform the swabs on themselves under the supervision of the Supervisor;
  - (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 15 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 <a href="https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/covid19\_ARTselftests">https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/covid19\_ARTselftests</a>
- 10A. 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 <a href="https://www.moh.gov.sg/">https://www.moh.gov.sg/</a>. 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.

#### Requirements for Supervisors

- 11. **[Updated as of 8 November 2021] [Mandatory]** 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 or any other vaccine regimen as approved by MOH<sup>8</sup> and 14 days have passed from the time of the second dose<sup>9</sup>) before he or she can perform any supervisory role.
- 12. **[Updated as of 8 November 2021]** Enterprises that are conducting ESSS are advised to appoint an adequate number of Supervisors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This includes wearing adequate personal protective equipment and maintaining appropriate infection prevention control procedures while conducting supervision.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Please refer to the First Schedule of the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Regulations 2021) for the most updated information on the vaccination regimen and approved vaccines.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Enterprises can consider asking Supervisors to verify their vaccination status via TraceTogether.

13. [Updated as of 8 November 2021] This paragraph is no longer applicable.

Conduct of ESSS by Workers

- 14. [Mandatory] Enterprises are required to ensure that their Workers shall:
  - (1) be supervised<sup>10</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>11</sup>.

Uploading of Test Results onto SRS

- 15. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to upload the test results obtained by their Workers from ESSS onto SRS in accordance with the following:
  - (1) **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** if the test result is "AG+", Enterprises are to upload the test result of that Worker onto SRS **no later than 12 hours** 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 <u>no later</u> than 24 hours after the ESSS for that specific Worker is completed; and
  - (3) the requirements set out under paragraphs 4 and 6 of **Annex A**.
- 16. Please contact CAAS\_RRT\_Helpdesk@caas.gov.sg to request for an SRS account.

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

17 [Updated as of 1 November 2021] The Government will be supplying ART test kits to Enterprises until 31 December 2021. To place the initial order for the ART test kits, Enterprises required submit the relevant information the using form https://go.gov.sg/esssarttestingkit ("Order Form"). Enterprises that carry out their businesses across multiple premises should submit a consolidated Order Form for all of their premises<sup>12</sup>. The ART test kits will be delivered to Enterprises on first-come-first-served basis. Enterprises shall only use the ART test kits that are supplied by the Government for ESSS and shall not distribute, supply or sell them 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 FET, unless the test result is AG invalid.

<sup>11</sup> Used test kits should be double-bagged and tied before disposing them in closed bins (e.g. pedal bins).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> This can be done in person or virtually.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</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.

- After submission of the Order Form, a confirmation email and/or SMS from a third-party vendor will be sent to your company's Point-of-Contact (POC).
- 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**

- 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.
- 21 For more details on the FET regime, please contact us at <u>CAAS\_RRT\_Helpdesk@caas.gov.sg</u> for further clarifications.

#### **Transition Plan**

As communicated at the briefing conducted by CAAS to the aviation community on 18 October 2021, the switch to the FET regime for Enterprises with employees undergoing the Airport Workers PCRRRT regime must be completed on either **5 November 2021** or **12 November 2021**.

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 at a QTC, they with receive an SMS stating the test result that they have obtained. Alternatively, the test results of these Workers can also be found on their TraceTogether or HealthHub phone applications.
- 4. If a Worker undergoes ART as part of ESSS, <a href="Image 1">Image 1</a> 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 <a href="during">during</a> the Checking Window onto SRS.

Image 1: Test results on SD Bio Sensor

Negative Test Result ('AG-')	Positive Test Result ('AG+')	Invalid Test Result ('AG Invalid')
C T		C T
Bold marking at 'C' and <u>No</u> marking at 'T'	<u>Bold</u> marking at 'C' and <u>Bold</u> marking at 'T'	<u>No</u> marking at 'C' and <u>Bold</u> marking at 'T'
	C T	C T
	Bold marking at 'C' and <u>Faint</u> marking at 'T'	<u>No</u> marking at 'C' and <u>No</u> marking at 'T'

5. 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.

- 6. **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** If the Enterprise had incorrectly submitted an "AG-/AG+" result for a Worker on SRS, Enterprises are to email to <a href="mailto:askSRS@hpb.gov.sg">AskSRS@hpb.gov.sg</a> with the below information:
  - a. NRIC
  - b. Name
  - c. Date of FET test affected by erroneous result
  - d. Company/ Employer for FET RRT
  - e. Client's email address
  - f. Final result to be displayed (AG+, AG- or Remove Test)
  - g. Screenshot of the SMS received (Optional)
- 7. 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 <a href="https://www.moh.gov.sg/">https://www.moh.gov.sg/</a>

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