

*Issued on 24 September 2021*

*Updated on 25 October 2021*

## **Safe Management Measures for Funeral Events**

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) has announced to tighten community safe management measures for a short period of time to slow down community transmissions and stabilise the situation. As the Stabilisation Phase has been extended, the following measures will continue to take effect from **25 October 2021 through 21 November 2021**. This document provides the conditions under which the Funeral Director or any person engaged to organise the funeral event, or premises owner of the venue where the funeral event is held when no person is engaged to organise the event, are permitted to carry out activities at funeral events.

### **Limits on Number of Attendees**

1. Attendees at wakes and funerals including foot processions, shall be kept to 30 persons or fewer at any one time, depending on the safe capacity of the venue, whichever is lower. Pre-event testing is not required.
2. Burials and cremations shall be attended by not more than 30 persons in total. NEA will issue 30 entry passes for each cremation or burial application at the government-managed facilities.
3. Religious workers, funeral staff and persons involved in the conduct of live instrumental (non-wind) music should be kept to a minimum.

### **Group Size and Safe Distancing**

4. All attendees at funeral wakes, foot processions, burials and cremations must wear a mask. The prevailing group size of no more than two pax applies. Please ensure that a safe distance of at least one metre is maintained between individuals and/or groups.
5. Where seating at a table is provided, every chair for each table must be placed at least one metre away from any other chair for another table at all times. Tables and chairs must be arranged such that each table can accommodate not more than two individuals seated at the table or not more than two individuals in each group separated by a space of at least one metre.

### **Food and Beverage**

6. Attendees of funeral events should minimize their interaction with fellow attendees and leave the premises immediately after the event. No buffet set-up or reception with food and drinks is allowed. From 19 July 2021, provision of

individually packed drinks (i.e. bottled/packet drink) or individually packed titbits (e.g. peanuts, melon seeds) is disallowed at funeral wakes.

7. Individually packed food/drink (e.g. bento boxes) may be supplied to family members of the deceased who keep vigil for the duration of the funeral wake, and need to consume food at the premises. However, they should not interact with the other attendees when consuming their meals, and should consume their meals away from guests present at the funeral/wake event.

### **Live Performances**

8. Live instrumental music (non-wind) will be allowed at funeral events. The persons involved in the conduct of live instrumental music must wear a mask and should minimise movement to ensure that the one metre safe distance can be adhered to at all times. They are not to participate in the foot procession. No other performances (e.g. singing, dance, variety act) are allowed and there should be no sharing of equipment (e.g. musical instruments, microphones, props). Live singing and playing of wind instruments (instruments which require intentional expulsion of air, e.g. trumpets, conch shell) are not allowed.
9. Hearse escort party, i.e. musical band and/or display contingent on foot and including vehicles ferrying banners/blanket/flowers, is not allowed during the funeral event.
10. Religious workers involved in the conduct of the religious rites (e.g. preachers, prayer leader, scripture reader), will be required to wear face mask, when performing their speaking duties (i.e. preach, chanting of prayers) at funeral wakes and funeral services (i.e. cremation or burial services). They should largely remain at the spot from which they are speaking and must be at least one metre away from any other individual. Use of face shields in place of face mask is no longer allowed.

### **Health Check**

11. Any person who is unwell must be turned away.

### **TraceTogether-only SafeEntry**

12. SafeEntry check-in is required for funeral events and funeral parlours with wake halls. From 17 May 2021, TraceTogether-only SafeEntry (TT-only SE) check-in is required for funeral events and funeral parlours with wake halls. Visitors must perform TT-only SE check-in, via TraceTogether app or TraceTogether token to enable or facilitate contact tracing.

13. From 19 April 2021, funeral parlours with wake halls are required to deploy SafeEntry Gateway as an additional SafeEntry check-in method. The SafeEntry Gateway enables contactless detection of both the TraceTogether App and Token, and serves as an additional means of SE check-in that is quicker and more seamless.

## **General**

14. Discourage vulnerable persons, such as the elderly, from attending these events to protect their health and consider alternative solutions for them, such as live video screening instead.
15. Funeral staff is strongly advised to administer self-testing regime using the Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits available for purchase over retail counters. Family members may also consider to perform self-testing if they are worried that they may have COVID-19 and want to put their mind at ease. For more information on ART self-test kits, please visit <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/selftestart>.