**Group:** All TPs (Except IHLs. IHLs circular will be sent through MOE/HEPD)

**Target Send Date:** 25 February 2022

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**25 February 2022**

**[SSG CIRCULAR/PPD/2022/Circular No. 3]:** **Advisory on the Updates to Workplace Testing Requirements effective from 18 February 2022**

Dear Training Providers,

This advisory informs Training Providers (TPs) on the revised Safe Management Measures (SMMs) that will take effect from 18 February 2022 (unless otherwise stated below). This is for strict compliance by all TPs.

1. On 16 February 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced an update to simplify existing workplace testing requirements. The MTF’s press release is attached below.



**[New]** **Streamlining the Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) Regime**

1. The RRT regime served as an important part of the national strategy to facilitate early detection and containment of transmission in the community. Testing continues to be an essential response to COVID-19. However, the high vaccination coverage and the implementation of Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS) offer good protection to the workforce from severe disease due to COVID-19 infection. The high transmissibility and shorter incubation period of the Omicron variant have also meant a reduction in the effectiveness of RRT in containing community transmission. Furthermore, the national posture has shifted towards protecting the vulnerable population and managing severe cases.
2. Therefore, from 18 February 2022, the RRT regime will focus only on settings catering to vulnerable groups (i.e., healthcare sector, eldercare sector, and settings with children below 5 years old[[1]](#footnote-2)) and selected essential services sectors. As such, **TPs that are currently on RRT will no longer be required to continue testing from 18 February 2022**. TPs must continue to comply with all prevailing requirements for specific settings.
3. We urge individuals to continue to exercise personal responsibility and conduct regular self-testing, especially prior to visiting crowded places or interacting with vulnerable groups during this period. TPs that have remaining kits that were already distributed to them for RRT are strongly encouraged to continue testing until the test kits are fully utilised.

**[New] Enhancements to the Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS)**

1. In our previous advisory dated 17 January 2022, we stated that VDS will be expanded to include all indoor sports facilities, Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), and leisure guests in hotels, hostels and service departments. **As MOE is still reviewing the implementation of VDS for IHL students, all enrolled students, i.e., Pre-Employment Training and Continuing Education and Training (CET) students**[[2]](#footnote-3)**, will be exempted from the VDS requirement to enter campus for now, until further notice**.

**[New] Streamlining of Safe Management Measures to be Consolidated and Implemented at a Later Date**

1. On 16 February 2022, the MTF had also announced the streamlining of existing Safe Management Measures (SMMs) to a set of five core parameters (SMM1-5). The streamlining would have entailed, amongst other things, social gatherings of up to 5 persons at workplaces. The changes were to be implemented in phases, on 25 February and 4 March 2022.
2. The MTF has subsequently reviewed this and decided to consolidate and streamline the SMMs in one go instead. This is mentioned in the MTF’s latest press release of 24 February 2022.



1. TPs should continue to abide by all SMMs for TPs as laid out in SSG’s advisories, as well as MOM’s guidelines on SMMs for the workplace. When in doubt, TPs should check [www.gov.sg/features/covid-19](http://www.gov.sg/features/covid-19) for updates and the latest advisories.

**For strict compliance by TPs**

1. TPs are required to strictly comply with national COVID-19 measures and all additional measures stipulated by SSG. Failure to comply may be taken as a violation of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations with its attendant penalties which include a fine not exceeding $10,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or both, for first time offenders. Higher penalties of a fine of up to $20,000, imprisonment of up to 12 months, or both, may apply for subsequent offences. TPs may also be subject to additional SSG actions, e.g., termination of registration status or suspension of SSG funding.
2. For any clarifications, you may contact SSG’s hotline at 6785 5785 or log a case via the Feedback Portal at <https://portal.ssg-wsg.gov.sg/feedback>.

1. This includes staff as well as third-party vendors in preschools, Early Intervention centres, and Private Education Institutions with children less than 5 years old. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Pre-Employment Training students refer to all students pursuing full-time Nitec/Higher Nitec, Diploma and undergraduate degree qualifications in IHLs. CET students refer to all other students including (i) part-time students pursuing Nitec/Higher Nitec, Diploma and undergraduate degree qualifications, and (ii) full-time and part-time students taking modular courses, short courses, post-graduate by coursework and research, post-diploma, or work-study qualifications in IHLs. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)