CPE 66th Advisory: Mask-Off Rollout for Language and Literacy Lessons for Pre-Tertiary Private Education Institutions

Dear Sirs,

1.   As a follow-up from the CPE 63rd advisory, this advisory provides the revised parameters for Phase 2 of the mask-off implementation for pre-tertiary Private Education Institutions (PEIs).

[Updated] Phase 2 Mask-Off Rollout for Language and Literacy Lessons for Pre-Tertiary PEIs

2.   The Ministry of Education (MOE) and Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) announced on 24 March 2022 plans to gradually ease mask wearing requirements in schools, preschools and Early Intervention Centres. The press release is attached.

Joint MOE-ECDA
press release Mask-of

3.   With effect from **9 May 2022,** in alignment with MOE schools, pre-tertiary PEIs will be given the option to apply for a similar dispensation for Phase 2 of the mask-off implementation, which includes:

   a) [Existing, under Phase 1] Selected groups of students (up to Primary 4 or equivalent)/ teachers of students who have hearing or speech-related development needs (e.g., hearing impairment, speech articulation issues, dyslexia);

   b) **[New, under Phase 2] Teachers conducting language/literacy lessons for preschool, primary one and primary two students.** During language/literacy lessons, teachers may remove their masks specific to the tasks that help the students learn better. For example, a teacher can unmask to allow children to see the shape of his/her lips when articulating speech sounds. PEIs may also wish to take reference from the Safe Management Measures (SMMs) implemented in MOE schools and ECDA pre-schools (listed in **Annex A),** depending on their operating context(s).

4.   **All PEIs offering pre-tertiary levels (i.e., up to the equivalent of primary schools and below)** who wish to apply for the exemption can do so via the following FormSG link: https://go.gov.sg/pei-maskoffp2 from **9 May 2022**. As part of the application, PEIs will need to provide the following information in the Excel file attached:
   a) Name of PEI
   b) Status: Teacher/Student
   c) Name of Teacher/Student
   d) NRIC/FIN of Teacher/Student
   e) Duration of Programme Per Week (Total Hours)

Template for Mask
Off Phase 2.xlsx

5. The exemption can be implemented upon confirmation by SSG.

Social Responsibility

6. All PEIs must continue to abide by prevailing national SMMs. PEIs should also check www.gov.sg/features/covid-19 for the latest updates and advisories.

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

Annex A1: SMMs for Phase 2 Mask-Off Pilot in ECDA Pre-Schools

1. Unmasked teachers should maintain a safe distance of 1 metre from the children, where possible.

2. Children must remain within their respective cohorts; there must be no mixing of different cohorts.

3. Children are strongly encouraged to wear masks or face shields during the lesson for personal protection.

4. Teachers should keep their mask on when moving around the classroom.

5. Lessons should be conducted in well-ventilated venues, with fans switched on and windows opened, where possible.

6. High-touch areas must be wiped down and disinfected after the lesson.

Note: For ECDA pre-schools, infant care staff will be excluded from Phase 2 as there are no standalone language/literacy lessons for this age group and learning is integrated into everyday routines and experiences. In addition, children under 2 are unmasked and transmission risks may be higher due to closer staff-child interactions. The mask-off provision will also not apply to enrichment programmes.

Annex A2: SMMs for Phase 2 Mask-Off Pilot in MOE Schools

1. Teachers should keep their mask on when moving around the classroom.

2. Lessons should be conducted in well-ventilated venues, with fans switched on and windows opened, where possible.

3. High-touch areas must be wiped down and disinfected after the lesson.