

5 November 2021

## **[UPDATED] VACCINATE OR REGULAR TEST REGIME FOR PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (PEIs)**

**With effect from 1 October 2021, enterprises operating as [Private Education Institutions \(PEIs\)](#) (“Enterprises”) are required to implement the Vaccinate or Regular Test (“VoRT”) regime. Enterprises must comply with the mandatory requirements that are set out in this notice. For avoidance of doubt, the mandatory requirements are specified in the paragraphs below prefaced with the words ‘[\[Mandatory\]](#)’**

### **Background**

2. The purpose of the VoRT regime is to increase the vaccination rate among the selected sectors and to empower Enterprises to detect possible infections early among unvaccinated persons, so as to keep their workplaces and community safe.
3. For avoidance of doubt, the VoRT regime will apply concurrently with any existing Polymerase Chain Reaction Rostered Routine Testing (“**PCR RRT**”) or Fast and Easy Testing Rostered Routine Testing (“**FET RRT**”) regime that these persons are currently subject to (see paragraphs 6-8 below for more details).
4. Under the VoRT regime, Enterprises are required to ensure that the following employees<sup>1</sup> and persons who work under their direction or at their premises<sup>2</sup> (including those in non-public facing roles), are Fully Vaccinated or undergo regular testing if they are not:
  - a) All individuals teaching in mask-off settings such as dance, singing, wind/brass instruments, voice and theatre training, physical education and other sports-related activities;
  - b) All individuals working in a gym and/or fitness studio with individuals who are unmasked;
  - c) All cleaners hired directly by Enterprises or contract cleaning staff if they clean in a high-risk setting within the premises of the PEI where individuals are unmasked (e.g. canteens, sports facilities);
  - d) All individuals hired directly by Enterprises that operate on-site F&B (e.g. canteen staff); and
  - e) All individuals operating in settings with children 12 years old and below
  - f) All individuals operating in PEIs located within retail malls.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, such as stall assistants and part-time stall assistants.

<sup>2</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.

(collectively, “Workers”).

5. The VoRT 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. Checks will be conducted by enforcement teams to verify if Enterprises have complied with the mandatory requirements set out in this notice.

### VoRT Requirements for Enterprises

6. **[Mandatory]** All Enterprises must ensure that their Workers (as defined in paragraph 4 above) are (A) Fully Vaccinated (as defined in paragraph 9 below) or (B) undergo a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (“PCR”) or COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (“ART”) twice a week (“VoRT Requirement”) and on separate days within that week. For the avoidance of doubt, if an Enterprise consists of only one self-employed person, he or she has to comply with the VoRT Requirement as well.
7. Enterprises should guide their Workers who are not Fully Vaccinated to be tested at 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 Monday, his or her second test of the week should be carried out on Thursday or Friday) at least once every 3-4 days, i.e. at least two times a week (e.g. Days 3 and 7 of the week or Days 1 and 4 of the week).
8. Enterprises whose Workers are subject to existing PCR RRT or FET RRT regimes can recognise any PCR test or ART undergone by those Workers under those regimes during a given week as counting towards the Enterprises’ testing requirement for those Workers (if they are not Fully Vaccinated) under the VoRT Requirement for that same week. For example, if an Enterprise has a Worker who is not Fully Vaccinated that underwent a PCR/ART test as part of the PCR/FET RRT regime once during a week, the Enterprise is allowed to recognise that Worker’s PCR/ART test as satisfying one of the two weekly testing requirements for that Worker under the VoRT Requirement.
9. For the purposes of the VoRT Requirement and this notice, a Worker is considered to be “Fully Vaccinated” for the periods set out in the third column of Table 1 below if he or she fulfils the relevant requirements for those periods as set out in the corresponding second columns.

Table 1: Definitions of ‘Fully Vaccinated’

Category	Requirement(s)	Period
(1) Vaccinated with no prior history of COVID-19 infection	(a) Individual must not have had a history of COVID-19 infection; (b) Individual must have been vaccinated against a COVID-19 infection by the administration of	Starting 14 days after the day the individual was so vaccinated and ending 365 days later.

		(c) the appropriate regimen of any approved vaccine <sup>3</sup> ; and 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated.	
(2)	Recovered from COVID-19 infection without prior vaccination	<p>a. Individual must not have been vaccinated against COVID-19 infection; and</p> <p>b. Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection.</p>	Starting the day the individual first tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 via a PCR test and ending 270 days later.
		<p>(a) Individual must not have been vaccinated against COVID-19 infection; and</p> <p>(b) Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection; and</p> <p>(c) Individual had a second COVID-19 infection and recovered from it.</p>	Starting the day the individual first tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 upon via a PCR test for the second COVID-19 infection and ending 270 days later.
(3)	Recovered from COVID-19 infection and subsequently vaccinated	<p>(a) Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection</p> <p>(b) Individual must have been vaccinated against a COVID-19 infection by the administration of one dose of any approved vaccine<sup>4</sup> and</p> <p>(c) 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated.</p>	Starting 14 days after the day the individual was so vaccinated and ending 365 days later.

10. **[Mandatory]** When verifying if a Worker is Fully Vaccinated, Enterprises shall:

1. only recognise the proofs of vaccination as set out in **Annex B**; and
2. regard Workers who decline or are unable to produce the proofs of vaccination as set out in **Annex B** as being **not** Fully Vaccinated for the purposes of the VoRT Requirement and this notice.

11. **[Mandatory]** If a Worker is not Fully Vaccinated and has undergone PCR/ART as part of the Enterprises' VoRT Requirement, Enterprises shall:

- (1) verify<sup>5</sup> Worker's PCR/ART test results;

<sup>3</sup> These are limited to: (1) Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine); (2) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; (3) Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine); (4) Covishield COVID-19 vaccine; (5) Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine; (6) Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine; (7) Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine; or (8) any other vaccine regimen as approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Where the individual is vaccinated under (3) to (8), their vaccination records must have been ingested into MOH's national IT systems before they will be recognised. 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>4</sup> Please refer to footnote 3

<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) 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/>.
12. To meet the twice weekly testing requirements for Workers that are not Fully Vaccinated under the VoRT Requirement, Enterprises should conduct **Employer-Supervised Self-Swab** (“**ESSS**”) for their Workers. Details on how to conduct ESSS are set out in paragraphs 13 to 20 below.

## Requirements for Enterprises that conduct ESSS

13. 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 digital tools such as video conferencing.
14. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises conducting ESSS for their Workers shall :
  - (1) appoint an adequate number of Supervisors to supervise every Worker whenever they carry out the swabs on themselves;
  - (2) **[Updated as of 1 November 2021]** ensure that the Supervisor properly performs his supervisory role<sup>6</sup>;
  - (3) ensure that Workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 18 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 19 below;
  - (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/details/covid19\\_selftests](https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/details/covid19_selftests)
- 14A. Where workers have obtained ‘AG+’ test results while conducting ESSS. Enterprises are recommended to strongly encourage them to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on the MOH’s website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>

## Requirements for Supervisors

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

15. **[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<sup>7</sup> (refer to paragraph 9 for the definition of Fully Vaccinated) before they can perform any supervisory role.
16. **[Updated as of 8 November 2021]** Enterprises that are conducting ESSS are advised to nominate at least two Workers per outlet to perform the role of the Supervisor.
17. **[Updated as of 8 November 2021]** *This paragraph is no longer applicable.*

## **Conduct of ESSS by Workers**

18. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to ensure that their Workers shall:
  - (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>.
- 18A. Where workers have obtained 'AG+' test results while conducting ESSS. Enterprises are recommended to strongly encourage them to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on the MOH's website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>

## **Uploading of Test Results onto the Swab Registration System ("SRS")**

19. **[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 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 **no later than 24 hours** after the ESSS for that specific Worker is completed; and
  - (3) the requirements set out under paragraphs 4 to 6 of **Annex C**.

Annex A: Verification of Medically Ineligibility Status

Annex B: Recognised Proofs of Vaccination

Annex C: ART Test Results and the Management of Workers after ESSS

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

<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).

**Verification of Medically Ineligibility Status**

Individuals who are medically ineligible for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines includes:

1. Person who developed an allergic reaction to a previous dose of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine;
2. Person who developed myocarditis or pericarditis following administration of any mRNA COVID19 vaccine;
3. Person who developed a severe adverse reaction to a previous dose of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and had been determined that he/she should not receive a second mRNA vaccine dose;
4. Person who has not taken any COVID-19 mRNA vaccine but has been determined to be allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG)/ polysorbate through a positive skin prick/ intradermal test; or
5. Person with/ under the following condition(s)/ treatment<sup>10</sup>:
  - (1) Transplant within past 3 months; and/or
  - (2) Aggressive immunotherapy; and/or
  - (3) Active cancer on treatment.


MIW would need to be certified by doctors and provide a doctor's memo. Image 1 below illustrates a sample of the doctor's memo to certify the medically ineligible status. Individuals who lost their doctors' memo could go to a Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC) clinic or other General Practitioner (GP) clinics to re-obtain a memo at their own charge. MIW could also provide the SMS notification that they are allergic to mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. sent to that person.

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<sup>10</sup> Refers to patients in the listed groups who have been previously assessed by a doctor to be unsuitable to take the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. This is however not an absolute contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations. Please refer to MOH Circular No. 101/2021 for updated recommendations on contraindications and indications to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Image 1: Sample of Certification of Medical Ineligibility Status



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
SINGAPORE

**CERTIFICATION OF MEDICAL INELIGIBILITY FOR mRNA COVID-19 VACCINES**

Full Name  
(as per NRIC/FIN/Passport):

NRIC/FIN/Passport Number:

Contact Number:

To whom it may concern,

This is to certify that the above-mentioned person is medically ineligible for mRNA COVID-19 vaccines because he/she is a:  
(Please tick where appropriate)

- Person who developed an allergic reaction to a previous dose of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; or
- Person who developed myocarditis or pericarditis following administration of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine; or
- Person who developed a severe adverse reaction to a previous dose of any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and had been determined that he/she should not receive a second mRNA vaccine dose; or
- Person who has not taken any COVID-19 mRNA vaccine but has been determined to be allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG)/ polysorbate through a positive skin prick/ intradermal test; or
- Person with/ under the following condition(s)/ treatment<sup>1</sup>:
  - Transplant within past 3 months; and/or
  - Aggressive immunotherapy; and/or
  - Active cancer on treatment.

Please indicate the date when the above criteria will cease (where applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments:

Thank you.

Stamp/ Signature/ Date:

Name and MCR No of Certifying Medical Practitioner:

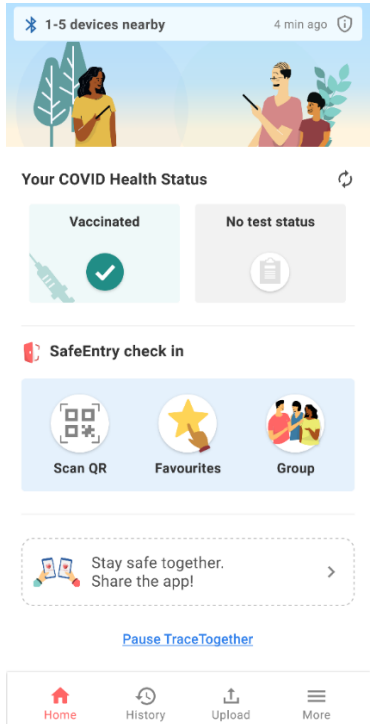
Clinic/ Hospital Name:

Contact Number:

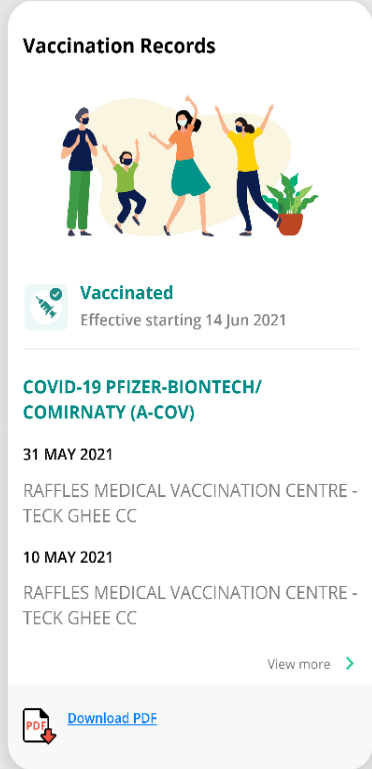
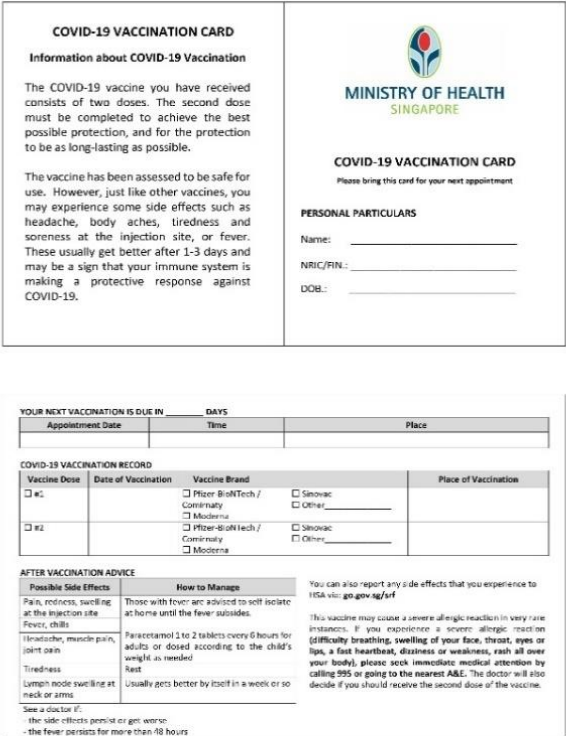
<sup>1</sup> Refers to patients in the listed groups who have been previously assessed by a doctor to be unsuitable to take the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. This is however not an absolute contraindication to mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations. Please refer to MOH Circular No. 101/2021 for updated recommendations on contraindications and indications to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

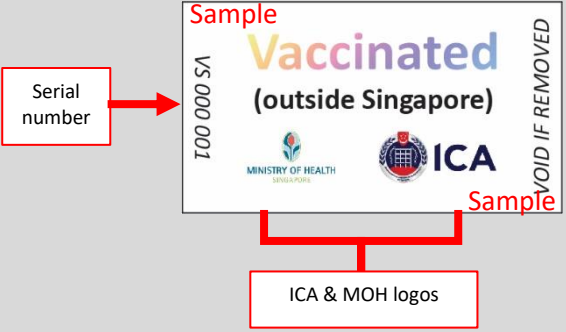
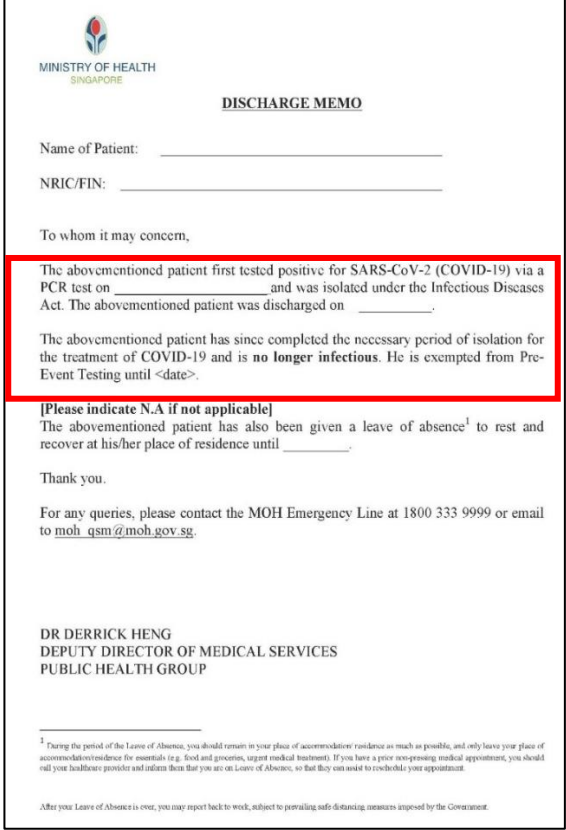
### Recognised Proofs of Vaccination

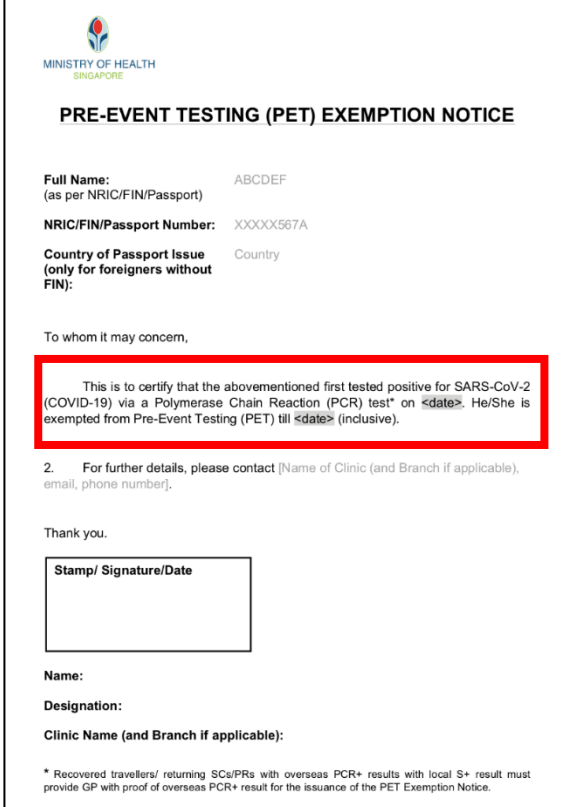
Enterprises can establish how many workers are Fully Vaccinated by checking their vaccination status using the methods as set out on <https://go.gov.sg/acceptabledocs> (refer to the “For fully vaccinated individuals” and “For individuals who have recovered from COVID-19” sections).

Category of Fully Vaccinated (see Paragraph 8)	Description	Reference Image(s)
(1) and (3)	<p><b><u>Vaccination Status on TraceTogether application</u></b></p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that the ‘Vaccinated’ icon appears as shown in the picture on the right.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure it is not a screenshot by asking the individual to click on other icons or refresh button within the app.</p>	 <p>The screenshot shows the TraceTogether app interface. At the top, it displays '1-5 devices nearby' and '4 min ago'. Below this is an illustration of a family. The main section is titled 'Your COVID Health Status' and features two buttons: 'Vaccinated' (with a green checkmark and a syringe icon) and 'No test status' (with a grey document icon). Below this is the 'SafeEntry check in' section with three options: 'Scan QR', 'Favourites', and 'Group'. At the bottom, there is a 'Stay safe together. Share the app!' banner and a 'Pause TraceTogether' link. The bottom navigation bar includes 'Home', 'History', 'Upload', and 'More'.</p>



Category of Fully Vaccinated (see Paragraph 8)	Description	Reference Image(s)
(1) and (3)	<p><a href="#"><u>Vaccination Status on HealthHub application</u></a></p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that the 'Vaccinated' icon as shown in the picture on the right.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure it is not a screenshot by asking the individual to click on other icons within the app.</p>	
(1) and (3)	<p><a href="#"><u>Physical Vaccination Card/Slip</u></a></p> <p>Enterprises are to only accept the original hardcopy card/slip.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that the card/slip belongs to the individual by checking against the his/her Government-issued photo identification.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that more than 2 weeks have passed since the final dose of the vaccine (e.g. if your final dose was on 1 July 2021 (Day 1), you would be considered to be fully vaccinated from 15 July 2021 (Day 15)).</p> <p><i>Note. Hard-copy and digital overseas vaccination certs are not recognised.</i></p>	



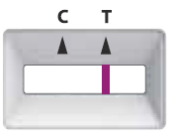
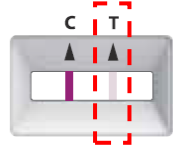

Category of Fully Vaccinated (see Paragraph 8)	Description	Reference Image(s)
(1) and (3)	<p><b><u>Vaccination Sticker</u></b></p> <p>Enterprise may refer to the tamper-proof vaccination sticker to be affixed onto the passport of employees who were fully vaccinated overseas with a World Health Organisation Emergency Use Listing (WHO-EUL) vaccine.</p> <p>Please note that the validity of the sticker is until the end of their Short-Term Visitor Pass validity or until 30 September 2021, whichever is earlier. After which, employers may refer to the TraceTogether application to verify vaccination status.</p>	
(2)	<p><b><u>Discharge Memo</u></b></p> <p>Enterprises are to only accept the original hardcopy memo.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that the memo belongs to the individual by checking against the his/ her Government-issued photo identification.</p> <p>To ensure that the duration of the activity is within the 270 days exemption period calculated from the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> PCR test.</p> <p>Older versions of memo that do not indicate the exemption period or the date of the PCR positive test result will not be accepted.</p>	

Category of Fully Vaccinated (see Paragraph 8)	Description	Reference Image(s)
(2)	<p><b><u>PET Exemption Notice</u></b></p> <p>Enterprises are to only accept the original hardcopy memo.</p> <p>Enterprises are to ensure that the memo belongs to the individual by checking against the his/ her Government-issued photo identification.</p>	

**ART Test Results and the Management of Workers after ESSS**

1. 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 will receive an SMS stating their test result within 1-2 hours. 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, Image 2 below illustrates how the different test results will be shown on the Abbott Panbio and SD Bio Sensor ART test kits (which are the ART test kits that is distributed to Enterprises for MIWs). Please note that the lines on the test kit cassette will appear in 15 – 20 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 2: Test results on the Abbott Panbio and SD Bio Sensor ART test kit

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

5. If a Worker undergoes ART as part of ESSS and uses an ART test kit other than the SD Bio Sensor and Abbott Panbio 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 a "AG-/AG+" result for a Worker on SRS, Enterprises are to email to [AskSRS@hpb.gov.sg](mailto:AskSRS@hpb.gov.sg) 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 <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>