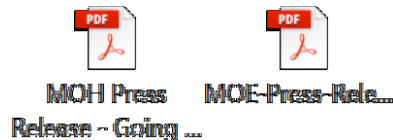


## CPE 45<sup>th</sup> Advisory: Tightening of Safe Management Measures to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) from 22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021

Dear Sirs,

1. On 20 July 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced the tightening of safe management measures (SMMs) to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) from 22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021 (both dates inclusive). The media releases from MTF and MOE are attached below:



### National Safe Management Measures

2. **[Updated]** Private Education Institutions (PEIs) must adhere to the tightened national SMMs. This includes but is not limited to:

- a) **Safe Distancing:** Reduction of permissible group sizes for social gatherings from five persons to maximum of two persons per group (regardless of vaccination status);
- b) **Cessation of Indoor 'Mask-Off' Activities:** Indoor 'mask-off' activities such as strenuous sports and exercise activities, singing, personalised services which require masks to be removed (e.g. make-up services) and the playing of instruments that require intentional expulsion of air will cease during this period. PEIs should ensure these activities are suspended for all classes conducted;
- c) **F&B outlets:** All dine-in at F&B outlets on PEI premises must cease. Delivery and take-out services are still permitted. This is with the exception of canteens and dining halls, which can continue with the appropriate safe management measures incorporated, as take-away dining will not be practical for students. However, students must sit at least 1m from one another.
- d) **Fast and Easy Testing (FET):** The plans for FET as communicated in the 43<sup>rd</sup> advisory issued on 16 July 2021 and the 42<sup>nd</sup> advisory issued on 14 July 2021 remain unchanged, unless PEIs decide to suspend all business operations during this period.

3. PEIs should check ([www.gov.sg/features/covid-19](http://www.gov.sg/features/covid-19)) for updates and the latest advisories.

### Sector-Specific Guidelines for Higher Risk Activities

4. **[Updated]** PEIs are also required to adhere to all prevailing guidelines for higher-risk classes and activities on campus. Additional safe management measures apply for Sport or

Physical Activity, Dance, Singing, Wind/Brass Instrument, Voice Training, Speech and Drama Classes.:

- a) For all sport or physical activity classes, as well as outdoor dance classes, please refer to the Sport Singapore advisory, available at: <https://www.sportsingapore.gov.sg/Newsroom/Media-Releases>
- b) For indoor dance classes, singing, wind/brass instrument classes, voice training, and speech and drama classes, please refer to the National Arts Council's advisory, available at <https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/sustaining-the-arts-during-covid-19/Safe-Management-Measures-for-the-Arts-and-Culture-Sector.html>

5. **[Updated]** Live Performances: **There should not be any live performances for the period of 22 July 2021 through 18 August 2021.**

## **Safe management measures in ECDA-registered preschools, MOE schools and IHLs**

6. **[Updated]** In addition to the above, PEIs may also wish to take reference from the plans and safe management measures for ECDA-registered preschools, MOE schools and IHLs, and decide if they wish to adopt tightened measures over and above the national SMMs. This includes measures referenced in the MOE Press Release and in Annex A.

7. PEIs may wish to note that students and staff from schools and IHLs who have been put under MOH's Health Risk Warning (HRW) will be placed on Approved Absence / Leave of Absence for at least 14 days, and will only be allowed to return to campus after their Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) swab test result is negative. Students and staff who have been put under Health Risk Alert (HRA) will be able to return to campus, but should limit their social interactions as an added precaution, monitor their health, and see a doctor promptly if they feel unwell.

8. For avoidance of doubt, in recognition of the diversity of PEIs which cater to different student profiles and age groups, PEIs are not required to align their measures to MOE schools and IHLs. Nonetheless, PEIs with similar student profiles and which conduct similar activities are strongly advised to take reference from the tightened posture and SMMs for schools and IHLs, and adopt where possible.

## **Workplace Measures**

9. PEIs are reminded to continue to adhere to the tightened SMMs for the workplace. **Working from home remains the default arrangement.** PEIs should ensure all staff who are able to work from home continue to do so, continue to stagger start times of employees who need to return to the workplace, and implement flexible working hours. There should continue to be no cross-deployment of staff as a default. All social gatherings at the workplace must be cancelled or deferred. Please refer to the MOM [website](#) for the full workplace SMMs.

## **Social Responsibility**

10. PEIs must adhere to all prevailing SMMs on screening, hygiene and safe distancing:
  - a) Screening: Students and staff who are unwell, or who have household members on Home Quarantine Order/Stay Home Notice or have adult household members with flu-

like symptoms such as fever and cough, are required to stay away from school and campus.

- b) Hygiene: High-touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently, and disinfection of premises should be carried out daily, if not more frequently.
- c) Safe distancing: All students and staff are to wear masks at all times<sup>1</sup>. There should be staggered arrival and dismissal to reduce congestion and intermingling among students in school and on campus.

*<sup>1</sup>Children under 6 years old are not required to wear masks. Nonetheless, they are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield.*

11. PEIs should regularly remind all students and staff that if they are unwell, even with mild flu-like symptoms, they should see a doctor immediately. They should minimise in-person interactions and isolate themselves at home as far as possible, unless they need to attend to essential activities (such as medical appointments). Students and staff should adopt safe distancing and good hygiene practices at all times.

## **PEIs that are SSG Registered Training Providers**

12. PEIs that are SSG registered Training Providers must also comply with **SSG Circular/PPD/2021/16: Advisory on the additional guidelines under Phase Two (Heightened Alert) from 22 July 2021 to 18 August 2021.**

13. Please contact us via [CPE\\_Registration@ssg.gov.sg](mailto:CPE_Registration@ssg.gov.sg) if you require any clarification. Thank you.

**Phase 2 Heightened Alert Measures – ECDA-registered Preschools**

**[Updated]** Visitor Management

- Only visitors needed to support the running of preschools may enter the premises. All parents are restricted from entering the premises.
- Visitors should keep a safe distance of least 2 metres from staff and children.
- Designate a ‘drop-off point’ outside the preschool for deliveries and ensure proper sanitisation and wiping down of all goods and items that are delivered.

**[Updated]** Classrooms

- To segregate children by class and ensure that there is no mixing across classes.
- Larger classes should be spilt into smaller groups of no more than 10 children, where reasonably practicable to do so, with no interaction between groups.
- Enrichment classes should be moved online. If it is not possible, external persons providing such programmes must be limited to physically serve no more than 1 preschool.
- All higher risk, mask-off enrichment programmes (e.g. those involving wind instruments) must be suspended during this period.

**[Updated]** Small Group Activities within each class

- Children are to have meals in their respective classrooms. If meals have to be taken in a common dining space:
  - Stagger meal times with no mixing of classes
  - Seat children as far apart as reasonably practicable
  - Preschools may consider the usage of desk shield / Plexiglass barriers where space is more restricted. These should be wiped down and cleaned after every use.
  - Surfaces are to be cleaned before the commencement of meals for the next class.
- To keep volume low, in order to minimise expulsion of droplets. There should not be any loud singing.

**[Updated]** Large group activities (e.g. learning journeys, assemblies)

- Activities conducted at external venues (e.g. field trips, learning journeys, swimming) and other large group activities (e.g. assemblies) are to be suspended

**[Updated]** Outdoor Activities

- Preschools may continue to carry out outdoor activities in public spaces within the vicinity. However, preschools must now do so in small groups of no more than 2 children instead of 5, in line with the national reduction in group sizes.
- Preschools must ensure that there is safe distancing of at least 1 metre between groups and children remain separated by their classes/ groups within their class.
- Staff-child ratios for outdoor activities must be met.
- Stagger classes when going outdoors.
- Classes should be separated during outdoor play.
- Refrain from carrying out vigorous outdoor activities. Children should wear masks or face shields outdoors, as far as possible.
- Children must practice hand hygiene before and after going outdoors. This also applies to staff accompanying the children.

**[Updated]** Staff Deployment and Training

- All staff must not be cross deployed across preschools.

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- To avoid mixing children and staff from different classes to minimise risk of cross-transmission across classes.
- Deployment of core programme staff (i.e. extended hours in preschool, sustained close contact with children) should be limited to no more than 2 classes, as far as possible.
- To conduct all staff meetings and training virtually, e.g. by using tele-conferencing facilities.
- All social gatherings between staff will remain suspended until further notice.

### Phase 2 Heightened Alert Measures – Schools

- **[Updated]** Strict fixed exam-style sitting at all times in the classroom, with up to students per group for group work.
- School based examinations continue to be carried out in classrooms or with no more than 50 students per venue.
- **[Updated]** Centre-based classes will be conducted online for all non-graduating cohorts.
- **[Updated]** For physical education classes, schools will only conduct individual mask-off activities in outdoor or well-ventilated venues. There will be no group activities.
- **[Updated]** Mask-off music and drama classes to be suspended.
- **[Updated]** All in-person Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and non-essential enrichment will be suspended till further notice. Where possible and meaningful, CCAs may be reformatted and conducted online (eCCA).
- **[Updated]** External activities such as external CCAs and learning journeys will remain suspended.
- **[Updated]** School-based activities and after-school care arrangements will continue, subject to the tightened SMMs.
- **[Updated]** During recess, students are seated in fixed arrangement with at least 1m spacing in canteens, classrooms or at appropriate venues.
- **[Updated]** All unstructured play activities to be suspended.
- **[Updated]** Enclosed common areas (e.g. libraries, student lounges) to be strictly regulated with cohortisation of students and supervision.
- Level based assemblies continue to be suspended.
- F2F parents' briefings will continue to be suspended and moved to virtual modes
- Staff professional development should be virtual as a default.
- Schools should minimise visits by external parties, especially those involving interaction with students.

### Phase 2 Heightened Alert Measures – IHLs

- Overall, on-campus presence for students should be capped at no more than 60% of the total student enrolment at any given point in time.
- To minimise risk of transmission on campus, IHLs must continue to cap in-person classes at no more than 50 persons, including the trainer(s). Classes or lectures with more than 50 persons must be conducted online.
- For the purpose of examinations and assessments, only classrooms or other suitable teaching venues should be used, with a cap of 50 persons (including invigilators/ staff). All necessary safe management measures, including at least 1 metre distancing between individuals, mask-on at all times etc. must be implemented. Where practicable, IHLs may consider online assessments and examinations.
- **[Updated]** All in-person events that involve more than 50 persons are to be postponed or cancelled.
- **[Updated]** Any indoor mask-off activities which involve mask-off activities for an extended period (strenuous indoor exercise or classes, singing/wind/brass playing) are not allowed.
- **[Updated]** All in-person Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs) and non-essential enrichment will be suspended till further notice. Where possible and meaningful, CCAs may be reformatted and conducted online (eCCA).
- **[Updated]** Dine-in at canteens, halls and designated classrooms will be allowed only with fixed single seating with 1m spacing, and no interaction between individuals. Dine-in at F&B outlets on campus should cease.