

CPE 51st Advisory: Updates to Precautionary Measures for Private Education Institutions

Dear Sirs,

On 9 October 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced further updates to their plans for the Stabilisation Phase, as well as changes to the COVID-19 isolation and testing protocols. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has also updated the precautionary measures for schools and Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). The media releases from the MTF and MOE are attached below.



MTF Press Release
- Protect th...



MOE Press Release - Updat...

[Updated] Expansion of Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS)

2. To protect unvaccinated individuals and reduce the strain on our healthcare system, the Ministry of Health (MOH) will expand the VDS for entry into shopping malls, attractions, hawker centres, and coffee shops from 13 October 2021.

F&B Establishments on PEI Premises

3. With effect from 13 October 2021, there will no longer be concessions for groups of up to 2 persons regardless of vaccination status to dine-in at F&B establishments that are licensed as coffee shops, hawker centres or canteens. **All F&B establishments on PEI campuses can only allow vaccinated staff and students to dine in, in groups of no more than 2 individuals.** For avoidance of doubt, unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test (PET) result, recovered individuals, and children aged 12 years and below may also be included in such groups of two.

4. Patrons are reminded to adhere to all prevailing safe management measures and keep their masks on at all times except when eating or drinking. F&B establishments that are not able to ensure that all dine-in patrons meet the criteria for full vaccination may only operate take-away and delivery services.

PEIs Located in Shopping Malls

5. Similarly, under the expanded VDS coverage, only groups of up to 2 fully vaccinated persons will be allowed to enter shopping malls and attractions. For avoidance of doubt, unvaccinated individuals with a valid negative pre-event test (PET) result, recovered individuals, and children aged 12 years and below may also be included in such groups of two.

6. There will be a one-week grace period from 13 October 2021 to 19 October 2021 for mall operators to familiarise themselves with the revised arrangements. PEIs with premises located in shopping malls may also refer to ESG’s website <https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/covid-19> for more information.

[Updated] Update to Precautionary Measures in MOE Schools and IHLs

7. From 11 October 2021, MOH will issue a 7-day Health Risk Warning to students in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, in line with Protocol 3 of the 1-2-3 protocols¹. Accordingly, MOE schools and IHLs will be implementing updated precautionary measures as set out in [Table 1](#). **PEIs may wish to take reference from these measures to protect their school communities.**

Table 1: Overview of Precautionary Measures in MOE schools and IHLs

Category	Arrangements
Confirmed Case	Not allowed to attend school / campus until the end of isolation period. The isolation period will depend on the whether the student is ‘unwell and tested positive by ART’ (Protocol 1) or ‘well and tested positive by ART’ (Protocol 2).
Stay-Home Notice (SHN)	Not allowed to return to school / campus until the end of SHN.
Health Risk Warning (HRW)	Follow national Protocol 3 and allowed to return to school / campus after the first negative ART self-test, and negative ART results daily for the next 7 days, prior to leaving home.

[Updated] Adjustments to Management of AG+ and Invalid Results from Fast and Easy Testing Rostered Routine Testing (FET-RRT) and Vaccinate or Regular Test (VoRT) Regimes

8. There will also be further adjustments to the protocols for managing AG+ and Invalid results for the FET-RRT and VoRT regimes, which is summarised in [Table 2](#). PEIs may also refer to <https://www.covid.gov.sg/> for further details.

9. In view of these changes, CPE will update the FET-RRT and VoRT notices, and disseminate them to PEIs when ready. Arising from recent queries, we would also like to emphasise that PEIs should also register contractors (e.g. bus drivers, enrichment teachers) for FET-RRT and VoRT, (i) as long as they belong in any of the

¹ For more information on the 1-2-3 protocols, please refer to Annex C in MOH’s press release on 9 October 2021: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/protecting-the-vulnerable-securing-our-future>.

groups specified in the 49th Advisory, and (ii) are not already registered through another company or sector.

Table 2: Changes to Workflow for AG+ and Invalid Results for FET-RRT and VoRT Regimes

Previous	New
Workers who have a “Double Invalid” test result are treated as “AG+” and should follow the AG+ Workflow	Undergo a follow-up ART until they obtain an “AG+” or “AG-” test result
Workers who obtain an “AG+” are required to take a confirmatory PCR test	<p>If unwell, follow MOH’s protocol 1: For those who are unwell and tested positive, they should see a doctor (i.e. visit a Swab and Send Home (SASH) clinic https://flu.gowhere.gov.sg/ via private transport.</p> <p>If well, follow MOH’s protocol 2: For those who are well and tested positive, they should self-isolate at home for the next 72 hours. After 72 hours, they can re-test and if negative, they may exit isolation and resume normal activities. If they become unwell at any time, they should see a doctor.</p> <p>Note that for the follow-up ART test after 72 hours,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It does not need to be carried out under supervision • Results do not need to be uploaded to the Swab Registration System (SRS) • Individuals are to use self-sourced ART test kits for the follow-up ART test and not those that have been supplied by the Government under the FET regime.

Social Responsibility and National Safe Management Measures (SMMs)

10. 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.

11. As conveyed in the 50th advisory, face-to-face lessons for students aged 12 years and below at PEIs may resume from 11 October 2021 with strict SMMs in place. Nevertheless, PEIs serving students aged 12 and below are still strongly encouraged to continue conducting lessons online as much as possible to protect the young.

12. In addition to the above, PEIs are reminded to adhere to the following:
- a) Hygiene: High-touch surfaces should be cleaned frequently, and disinfection of premises should be carried out daily, if not more frequently.
 - b) Safe distancing: All students and staff are to wear masks at all times². There should be staggered arrival and dismissal to reduce congestion and intermingling among students in school and on campus.
- ² *Children under 6 years old are not required to wear masks. Nonetheless, they are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield.*
13. 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 minimize 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.
14. Please contact us via CPE_Registration@ssg.gov.sg if you require any clarification.

Thank you.