

Conditions for Resumption of Operations for Mahjong Rooms in Private Entities

We refer to the latest announcement from the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (“MTF”) on 10 June 2021. In line with the gradual reopening, private mahjong (or gambling) rooms may be allowed to resume operations from 14 June 2021, subject to the operators implementing the required Safe Management Measures (SMMs).

2. To provide a safe environment for all staff and members, operators of these private mahjong (or gambling) rooms must comply with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020. In particular, workplaces with private mahjong (or gambling) rooms are reminded to comply with workplace specific-SMMs in addition to the SMMs listed below. Operators should refer to MOM’s prevailing requirements on workplace-specific SMMs at <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures>.

3. In addition, **private mahjong (or gambling) rooms should also comply with sector-specific SMMs**, as listed below.

- a. Put up signs to remind staff and members to observe all SMMs in place at all times.
- b. Implement a detailed monitoring plan to ensure compliance with SMMs and that issues are resolved in a timely manner (e.g. remedy of non-compliance, risk mitigation).
- c. Ensure that the premises are able to accept TraceTogether (TT) tokens and the TT app for check-in. With the implementation of TT-only SafeEntry, venue operators must only allow individuals who have successfully checked in using their TT App or TT Token to enter the venues.
- d. Limit and control the number of persons in the private mahjong (or gambling) rooms to the number of participants permitted in the Schedule of the Common Gaming Houses (Private Bodies – Exemption) Notification.
- e. Ensure clear physical spacing of at least 1m between groups of no more than 5 individuals. The 1m distance between groups should be measured from the outermost edges of each group (e.g. shoulder to shoulder, back to back, or closest edges of seats). There should be no mixing or interaction between the groups.
- f. Ensure all gambling equipment and tables (e.g. mahjong tiles and tables) are cleaned and disinfected at the end of each session for each group, before the next group uses them.
- g. Appoint Safe Management Officer(s) (SMO) to assist in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the system of SMMs at the premises. Duties of the SMO include the training of other staff to engage members to comply with SMMs, conducting inspections and checks to ensure that SMMs are complied with at all times; and keeping records of the checks which may be requested by the authorities.
- h. Implement a follow-up plan with precautionary measures in the event of a confirmed case, including immediately vacating the premises where the confirmed case had been and thorough cleaning and disinfecting all relevant on-site areas and assets that were exposed to confirmed cases.

- i. In the event of a confirmed case among the staff or members, the operator must temporarily suspend all operations. All staff who had been in close contact with the confirmed case shall be placed on Leave of Absence for 14 days (if not already issued with a Quarantine Order by MOH).

4. Additional guidelines to enhance measures at private mahjong (or gambling) rooms are listed in **Annex A**. Operators are **strongly encouraged** to implement these measures to minimise the risk of re-emergence and transmission of COVID-19 in the community. This would prevent a situation where a private mahjong (or gambling) room has to be suspended or closed, following the detection of COVID-19 case(s).

5. **All operators must comply with all the requirements as stated in the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations.** Operators who do not comply with the requirements as stated in the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations may be directed to close their private mahjong (or gambling) rooms under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020. Operators who do not comply may also be liable for an offence under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020, with 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 twelve months, or both, may apply for subsequent offences. Failure to comply with these requirements may also result in ineligibility for any Government support, such as rental rebates and wage support.

6. **Operators must also comply with the conditions as stated in the Schedule of the Common Gaming Houses (Private Bodies – Exemption) Notification.** Operators who do not comply would be liable for an offence under the Common Gaming Houses Act, with a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$50,000 and imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years.

Additional Guidelines to Enhance Measures at Private Mahjong (or Gambling) Rooms

Note: These guidelines are non-exhaustive. Operators are strongly encouraged to incorporate these additional measures into your operations, where practicable, to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission.

a) Entry/Exit Measures for the Private Mahjong (or Gambling) Rooms

- i. **Conduct temperature screening and checks for respiratory symptoms for all persons prior to entry into the private mahjong (or gambling) rooms.** Temperature screening for staff and contractors (if they are stationed within the private gambling room for a full day) are to be performed twice per shift. Persons who are unwell (i.e. having fever, and/or visible signs of respiratory illness, e.g. cough, sniffing, etc) should be asked to leave the private mahjong (or gambling) room.
- ii. **Allow entry for persons (including members, staff and contractors) who have performed the following:**
 - A. **Cleared temperature and respiratory symptoms checks;** and
 - B. **Perform TT-only SafeEntry declaration.**

[Note: The requirement to deploy TT-only SafeEntry should be in addition to the requirement for operators to ensure that non-members and persons below 18 years old do not enter or remain in the private mahjong (or gambling) room, as per conditions 3 and 7 of the Schedule of the Common Gaming Houses (Private Bodies – Exemption Notification).]

- iii. **Ensure that all persons (including members, staff and contractors) also use the TT-only SafeEntry system to record their exits from the private mahjong (or gambling) room.**

b) General Measures for the Private Mahjong (or Gambling) Rooms

- i. **Ensure that no food and beverages are provided** within the private mahjong (or gambling) rooms.
- ii. **Ensure that all persons** within the private mahjong (or gambling) rooms, including members, staff, and contractors, **maintain a safe distance of at least 1m. Group sizes of up to 5 persons** are allowed, however, a safe distance of at least 1m must be maintained between groups and there **should not be any intermingling** across groups.
- iii. **Ensure that all persons** within the private mahjong (or gambling) rooms, including members, staff, and contractors **wear a mask at all times.**

c) Management of ill / suspected / confirmed cases

- i. **Actively monitor the health status** (including checks for respiratory symptoms) **of all persons within the private mahjong (or gambling) room.** Any person within the private mahjong (or gambling) room who is feeling unwell or showing symptoms of illness should be asked to leave immediately to consult a doctor, even if the symptoms appear mild. These cases should be recorded and monitored as part of SMMs.
- ii. **In the event a suspected or confirmed case** is detected within the private mahjong (or gambling) room, **the operations of the private mahjong (or gambling) room should be suspended** until thorough cleaning and disinfecting the private mahjong (or gambling) room, in accordance to NEA guidelines, has been performed. Operators should advise all individuals in the private mahjong (or gambling) room to monitor their health. If individuals feel unwell or showing symptoms of illness, individuals should consult a doctor, even if the symptoms appear mild.
- iii. In the event of a **confirmed case** among the members, particulars of all members and contractors who were present in the private mahjong (or gambling) room with the affected person should be provided to the relevant authority.