

UPDATED CIRCULAR ON SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES REQUIRED FOR HOSTELS

1. On 22 April 2022, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced it would further ease Safe Management Measures (SMMs) as a significant step in our return to normalcy. In line with this, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has updated the SMMs applicable to hostels.
2. We strongly urge hostels to continue surveillance and monitoring of potential non-compliance within their premises. STB takes a serious view on establishments who do not comply with the SMMs and will continue to take strict enforcement action against all establishments who breach them.
3. The information in this circular (which includes its annexes) supersedes that in previous advisories or statements.

Key Updates to SMMs (with effect from 26 April 2022 unless otherwise stated below):

Group Sizes

1. There will be no group size limit for mask-off activities. The cap on the number of visitors at any one time to any guest room, including adjoining guest rooms, will also be lifted.

Workplace Requirements

2. All employees may now return to the workplace. Employees will be allowed to remove their masks at the workplace when there are not interacting physically with others and when they are not in customer-facing areas.

Safe Distancing

3. Safe distancing is not required between individuals or between groups.

Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS)

4. Except for events with >500 participants at any one time, nightlife establishments where dancing among patrons is one of the intended activities and food and beverage (F&B) establishments, VDS will be removed from all settings. With this change, unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals will be allowed to enter the parts of the premises where sleeping facilities are provided (e.g. guest floor and guest rooms).
5. While VDS is still required at F&B establishments, hostels no longer need to conduct VDS checks. There will be random spot-checks conducted to ensure that only fully vaccinated individuals are dining in at F&B establishments.

TraceTogether (TT) and SafeEntry (SE)

6. TT and SE are no longer required at the hostel entrances. TT and SE are only required for VDS checks at entry to events with >500 participants at any one time and nightlife establishments where dancing among patrons is one of the intended activities.

Shared Rooms and Room Capacity

7. The previous requirement for guests to declare whether their booking is for the purposes of leisure is no longer required.
8. For all types of occupants, room capacity has been increased to the maximum number of occupants for the room type. There is no requirement for alternate bunk bed occupancy and minimum 1-metre distancing between beds.

4. The hostel industry plays a critical role in keeping Singapore safe, and it is imperative that the industry remains vigilant and disciplined in maintaining health and safety protocols by reinforcing current SMMs and reminding employees to take all the prevailing measures seriously even if they have been vaccinated. Hostels should also strongly encourage any remaining un-vaccinated employees to get vaccinated as vaccination remains critical in our fight against the pandemic.

A. Implementation of Safe Management Measures

5. Hostels must comply with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures)(Reopening – Control Order) Regulations 2022, COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020¹, the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021 (collectively “Control Order”) and the SMMs found in **Annex A** and in the Sector Specific Requirements² of the relevant agencies:

5.1 F&B Dine-in must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Enterprise Singapore (ESG) for F&B establishments.

5.2 Sports and exercise environments, including gyms, must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sport Singapore’s (SportsSG) for sports facilities³.

5.3 Pools must comply with the prevailing Sector Specific Requirements by Sports SG for sports facilities.

5.4 Live performances held in hostels must comply with the prevailing capacity guidelines and must comply with NAC⁴ for live performances.

¹ <https://sso.agc.gov.sg/SL/COVID19TMA2020-S254-2020>

² <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector>

³ For full details, see <https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector> (see section on “Sports sector enterprises, sports education, and premises with sports facilities”)

⁴ <https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector/> (see section on “Arts and Culture”)

6. While the majority of the SMMs mentioned in this circular (including its annexes) are drawn from the Control Order and are summarised for the convenience of hostels, this circular is not exhaustive, and the prevailing Control Order will prevail in case of any inconsistency.
7. The details in this circular are provided to help hostels develop their plans and implement the necessary SMMs for providing accommodation safely. These plans will have to be tailored to the specific nature of operations in each hostel, and potential risk factors arising from localised factors such as the physical premises and layout, environment, scale of operations, and typical guest behaviour.
8. Hostels shall submit a set of required data as required by STB (e.g quarterly). Submissions are to be made at <https://go.gov.sg/covid19-hostelupdates>. Information collected will be used only as internal reference for public policy purposes and will not be shared with other hostels.
9. Hostels are required to inform STB immediately whenever there are a total of 20 or more positive COVID-19 cases over 3 consecutive days at the hostel⁵, providing such particulars of the case as may be requested by STB, via <https://form.gov.sg/615dc38cd1067600122e5c3a>.

B. Enforcement of Safe Management Measures

10. Under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020, first-time offenders may be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to six months, or both. Repeat offenders may be fined up to \$20,000, imprisoned up to twelve months, or both. Businesses that are not compliant may be ordered to cease business activities or close altogether. Under the Infectious Diseases (COVID-19 Access Restrictions and Clearance) Regulations 2021, businesses that fail to comply with requirements thereunder will face a fine not exceeding \$10,000 and attendees that fail to comply will face a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both. Businesses that are not compliant may also be ineligible for government grants, loans, tax rebates and other assistance.
11. For any enquiries, please contact STB.

Annex A – Safe Management Measures and Protocols for Accommodation Providers (Hostels)

Thank you.

SINGAPORE TOURISM BOARD
Updated as of 26 April 2022

⁵ Includes guests and visitors that have patronised or visited the hostel, and hostel staff.