

16 Dec 2021

Dear Enterprises

## **[UPDATED AS OF 16 Dec 2021] FAST AND EASY TESTING FOR THE SOCIAL SERVICES SECTOR**

1. Since late-June 2021, the Fast and Easy Testing (“FET”) regime has been progressively rolled out for all higher risk sectors, including the Social Services sector. **With effect from 2 Nov onwards, all specified enterprises (see Annex A) in the Social Services sector<sup>1</sup> (“Enterprises”) must comply with the mandatory requirements set out in this updated 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 FET regime is to further reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in settings with unmasked clients, or where services are performed under prolonged and close contact with clients, or where there are frequent interactions with the community. Under the FET regime, enterprises are required to ensure that their employees and persons who work under their direction (e.g. Contractors and Volunteers) undergo regular FET using the COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (“ART”), regardless of their vaccination or recovery status<sup>2</sup>. Self-employed persons working in these settings should also ensure that they adhere to the FET regime.
3. The FET 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<sup>3</sup>. Checks will be conducted by enforcement teams to verify if Enterprises have complied with the mandatory requirements set out in this notice.

### **FET Requirements for Enterprises**

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<sup>1</sup> Enterprises include self-employed persons, stall holders and hawker business owners.

<sup>2</sup> **[Updated as of 1 January 2022]** All individuals, including those who (a) are fully vaccinated with an approved COVID-19 vaccine, (b) have recovered from a COVID-19 infection, or (c) are certified by a medical practitioner to be medically ineligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19, are required to comply with the FET Requirement. Only individuals who have fully recovered from a COVID-19 infection and are fully vaccinated would be exempted from the FET requirement. This includes persons who a) recovered from a COVID-19 infection and subsequently receives at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine (two doses if Sinovac or Sinopharm) that has been authorised under the Health Sciences Authority’s Pandemic Special Access Route or listed on the World Health Organisation’s Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) no earlier than 3 months after date of positive PCR, and b) are fully vaccinated before being infected with COVID-19 and subsequently recovering from it. Persons who received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine before being infected would need to receive their 2nd dose (3rd dose if Sinovac or Sinopharm) to be exempted.

<sup>3</sup> Enterprises are reminded to comply with the other requirements imposed under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 and implement the Safe Management Measures (“SMMs”) as set out on the [COVID Gobusiness website](#). They are also reminded to comply with the relevant [SMMs](#) that have been set out by Government Agencies.

4. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises, except for residential Homes serving elderly residents, must ensure that all their employees<sup>4</sup> and persons who work under their direction<sup>5</sup> (collectively, “**Workers**”) undergo FET once every 7 days (the “**FET Requirement**”)<sup>6,7</sup>.
5. Staff in residential Homes serving elderly residents will undergo FET twice a week until further notice. The Homes should guide their Workers 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 Tuesday, his or her second test of the week should be carried out on Saturday or Sunday.

**[Mandatory]** After their Workers undergo FET, Enterprises shall verify<sup>8</sup> the worker’s test results.

6. Enterprises are strongly recommended to guide the Worker who has obtained an “AG+” result to abide by the relevant prevailing management protocols set out on MOH’s website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>,
7. To meet the FET Requirement, Enterprises are encouraged to conduct **Employer-Supervised Self-Swab (“ESSS”)** for their Workers (details in paragraphs 8 to 14 below). The costs for the ART test kits used for ESSS and the training required for Enterprises that wish to conduct ESSS will be borne by the Government until 31 March 2022.

### **Requirements for Enterprises conducting ESSS**

8. ESSS involves Workers using an ART kit and performing a swab on themselves under the supervision of a supervisor (“**Supervisor**”). The swabbing and supervision can be done either at the workplace or virtually using tools such as video conferencing.
9. **[Mandatory]** To satisfy the FET Requirement, Enterprises conducting ESSS for their Workers shall:
  - (1) appointed an adequate number of Supervisors to supervise every Worker whenever they carry out the swabs on themselves;
  - (2) ensure that Supervisor properly performs his supervisory role<sup>9</sup>;
  - (3) ensure that workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 12 below and properly perform the swabs on themselves;

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<sup>4</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns.

<sup>5</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included. (See Q7 and Q8 in FAQ for FET and VoRT for more details of persons placed under these categories)

<sup>6</sup> See Q1-Q5 in FAQ for FET and VoRT for more details for implementing FET every 7 days

<sup>7</sup> See Q6 in FAQ for FET and VoRT and Appendix III for conditions for exemption from ART

<sup>8</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.

<sup>9</sup> This includes wearing adequate personal protective equipment and maintaining appropriate infection prevention control procedures while conducting supervision.

- (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 13 below; and
  - (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/covid19\\_ARTselftests](https://www.hsa.gov.sg/consumer-safety/articles/covid19_ARTselftests)
- 9a. Where the Workers have obtained an “AG+” test result 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 MOH’s website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>. The follow-up ART under Protocol 2 does not need to be carried out under supervision and the results do not need to be uploaded to SRS. Enterprises are to use self-sourced ART test kits for the follow-up ART test(s) and not those that have been supplied by the Government under the FET regime.

#### *Requirements for Supervisors*

10. **[Mandatory]** if a Supervisor is above 50-years-old, Enterprises must ensure that he or she is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e. they received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination under Singapore’s national vaccination programme or any other vaccine regimen as approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH)<sup>10</sup> and 14 days have passed from the time of the second dose<sup>11</sup>) before they can perform any supervisory role.
11. Enterprises conducting ESSS are advised to nominate at least two Workers per facility to perform the role of the Supervisor.

#### *Conduct of ESSS by Workers*

12. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to ensure that their Workers shall:
  - (1) be supervised<sup>12</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>13</sup>.

#### *Uploading of Test Results onto SRS*

13. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to upload the test results obtained by their Workers from ESSS onto SRS<sup>14</sup> in accordance with the following:

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<sup>10</sup> 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>11</sup> Enterprises can consider asking Supervisors to verify their vaccination status via TraceTogether.

<sup>12</sup> This can be done in person or virtually.

<sup>13</sup> Used test kits should be double-bagged and tied before disposing them in closed bins (e.g. pedal bins).

<sup>14</sup> Details on how to register for an SRS account can be found at paragraph 15.

- (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 and 6 of **Annex B**.
14. For more details on how enterprises can register for an SRS account, kindly contact your MSF Coordinators. More details on the registration for an SRS account can be found in paragraph 16 below.

### **Support for Enterprises conducting ESSS**

15. The Government will be supplying ART test kits to Enterprises until **31 March 2022**. To place an order for the ART test kits, Enterprises are required to submit the relevant information to your respective service/programme coordinators in MSF/SGE. The ART test kits will be delivered to Enterprises. **Enterprises shall only use the ART test kits that are supplied by the Government for ESSS and shall not distribute, supply or sell them to any third-party.** ART Test Kits must be used with prudence and companies need to ensure that one employee only use one test kit for one cycle of RRT, unless the test result is AG invalid.
16. The information submitted will also be used by the relevant Government agencies to help Enterprises set up an SRS account. Once the SRS account has been set up, your POC will receive an email notification informing them about the creation of the SRS account and how to upload test results onto it.

### **Support from Enterprises**

17. The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of everyone in the community. We seek the support and understanding of all Enterprises during this period. We will continue to review and adjust the measures in line with the national posture for the health and well-being of the public and employees.
18. For more details on the FET regime, please contact your service/programme coordinators in MSF/SGE for further clarifications.

### **Annexes**

- Annex A List of Enterprises in the Social Services Sector for which this Notice applies  
Annex B FET Test Results and the Management of Workers after ESSS

**List of Enterprises in the Social Services Sector for which this Notice applies**

“Enterprises” used in this Notice refers to:

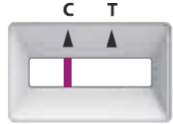
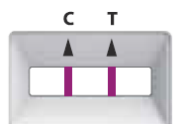

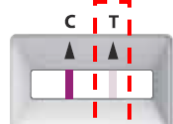

- Welfare Homes\*
- Sheltered Homes\*
- Adult Disability Homes\*
- Disability Hostels\*
- Children and Young Persons Homes
- Children’s Disability Homes
- Crisis Shelters
- Transitional Shelters\*
- Senior Group Homes\*
- Community Group Homes\*
- Day Activity Centres
- Sheltered Workshops
- Early Intervention (EI) Centres
- Community-based Student Care Centres (SCCs)
- Special Student Care Centres
- Community Based Integrated Support, and
- Transit Point@Margaret Drive\*

\*Residential Homes serving elderly residents

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

1. Workers will be required to undergo ART to satisfy the FET Requirement. 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 the test result that they have obtained. 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 1](#) below illustrates how the different test results will be shown on the Abbott Panbio and SD Bio Sensor ART test kit (which will be the ART test kit distributed to Enterprises). 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 1: Test results on SD Bio Sensor*

Negative Test Result (‘AG-’)	Positive Test Result (‘AG+’)	Invalid Test Result (‘AG Invalid’)
 <p><u><b>Bold</b></u> marking at ‘C’ and <u>No</u> marking at ‘T’</p>	 <p><u><b>Bold</b></u> marking at ‘C’ and <u><b>Bold</b></u> marking at ‘T’</p>	 <p><u>No</u> marking at ‘C’ and <u><b>Bold</b></u> marking at ‘T’</p>
	 <p><u><b>Bold</b></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 kit other than the Abbott Panbio and SD Bio Sensor 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. If the Enterprise had incorrectly submitted an “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/>