

30 Sept 2021

Dear Enterprises

## **[UPDATED AS OF 30 SEPT 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 15 July 2021 onwards, all specified enterprises (see Annex A) in the Social Services sector (“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 status. 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>1</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**

4. **[Mandatory]** All Enterprises, except for residential homes serving elderly residents, must ensure that their employees<sup>2</sup> and persons who work under their direction or at their premises<sup>3</sup> (collectively, “**Workers**”) undergo FET once every 7 days (the “**FET**”

---

<sup>1</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 Enterprise Singapore (ESG), Housing & Development Board (HDB), Singapore Food Agency (SFA), Sport Singapore (SportSG), National Environment Agency (NEA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Singapore Tourism Board (STB), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF).

<sup>2</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns.

<sup>3</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included. (See Q8 and Q9 in FAQ for FET and VoRT for more details of persons placed under these categories)

**Requirement**)<sup>45</sup>. Staff in residential homes serving elderly residents will undergo FET twice a week for a period of four weeks from 17 Sep 2021, and revert to undergo FET once every 7 days thereafter.

**[Mandatory]** After their Workers undergo FET, Enterprises shall verify<sup>6</sup> the worker's test results.

5. Where the Worker has obtained an "AG+" test result, Enterprises are strongly recommended to guide the Worker to abide by the prevailing management postures for such cases that are set out on MOH's website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/>,
6. To meet the FET Requirement, Enterprises are encouraged to conduct **Employer-Supervised Self-Swab ("ESSS")** for their Workers. Details on how to conduct ESSS are set out in paragraphs 7 to 14 below. The costs for the ART test kits that will be used for ESSS and the training required for Enterprises that wish to conduct ESSS will be borne by the Government until 31 December 2021.

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

7. ESSS involves Workers using an ART kit and performing a swab on themselves under the supervision of a trained supervisor ("**Supervisor**"). The swabbing and supervision can be done either at the workplace or virtually using tools such as video conferencing.
8. **[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 has satisfied the training requirements set out under paragraph 9 below and properly performs his supervisory role<sup>7</sup>;
  - (3) ensure that workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 12 below and properly perform the swabs on themselves;
  - (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)

---

<sup>4</sup> See Q1-Q5 in FAQ for FET and VoRT for more details for implementing FET every 7 days

<sup>5</sup> See Q7 in FAQ for FET and VoRT for conditions for exemption from ART

<sup>6</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>7</sup> This includes wearing adequate personal protective equipment and maintaining appropriate infection prevention control procedures while conducting supervision.

- 9a. Where the Workers have obtained an “AG+” test result while conducting ESSS, Enterprises are recommended to strongly encourage them to undertake a follow-up ART test and 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 test(s) 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.

#### *Training for Supervisors*

9. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises conducting ESSS shall ensure that their Supervisors have attended the 4-hour virtual Supervisory Training in ART Self-Swab that is conducted by the Ministry of Health’s (“**MOH**”) appointed training provider, HMI Institute of Health Sciences Pte. Ltd. (“**HMI**”) before they perform their supervisory role. 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>8</sup> and 14 days have passed from the time of the second dose<sup>9</sup>) before they can perform any supervisory role.
10. Enterprises conducting ESSS are advised to nominate at least two Workers per facility to undergo training to be a Supervisor. The training provided by HMI will equip Supervisors with the knowledge needed to supervise the conduct ESSS and a certificate of attendance will be issued to those who have completed it. The training provided by HMI is carried out daily from (a) 8am to 12pm, (b) 2pm to 6pm and (c) 6pm to 10pm on a first-come-first-served basis. Enterprises are advised to book their training slot directly with HMI at <https://hmi-ih.com/supervisory-training-in-art-self-swab/> and to do so as soon as possible.
11. Upon successful booking, HMI will send a web link for supervisors 1-2 days before the actual training day, to attend the virtual training session. Please visit HMI’s website at <https://hmi-ih.com> (refer to “COVID-19 Training”) for latest details on the ESSS training .

#### *Conduct of ESSS by Workers*

12. **[Mandatory]** Enterprises are required to ensure that their Workers shall:
- (1) be supervised<sup>10</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>11</sup>.

---

<sup>8</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>9</sup> Enterprises can consider asking Supervisors to verify their vaccination status via TraceTogether.

<sup>10</sup> This can be done in person or virtually.

<sup>11</sup> Used test kits should be double-bagged and tied before disposing them in closed bins (e.g. pedal bins).

### *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>12</sup> in accordance with the following:
  - (1) if the test result is “AG+”, Enterprises are to upload the test result of that Worker onto SRS **no later than 30 minutes** 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 December 2021**. 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**

---

<sup>12</sup> Details on how to register for an SRS account can be found at paragraph 16.

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:

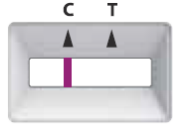
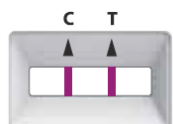

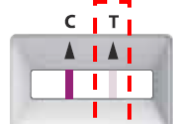
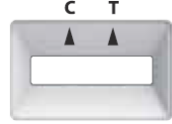
- Welfare Homes\*
- Sheltered Homes\*
- Adult Disability Homes\*
- Disability Hostels\*
- Children and Young Persons Homes
- Children’s Disability Homes
- Crisis Shelters
- Transitional Shelters\*
- Senior Group Homes\*
- Community Group Homes\*
- Day Activity Centres
- Sheltered Workshops
- Early Intervention (EI) Centres
- Community-based Student Care Centres
- Special Student Care Centres
- Drop-in Disability Programme
- 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>Bold</u> marking at ‘C’ and <u>No</u> marking at ‘T’</p>	 <p><u>Bold</u> marking at ‘C’ and <u>Bold</u> marking at ‘T’</p>	 <p><u>No</u> marking at ‘C’ and <u>Bold</u> marking at ‘T’</p>
	 <p><u>Bold</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 wrongly submitted a “AG+” result for a Worker on SRS, Enterprises must use this form to submit the details and updated result of the Worker - <https://go.gov.sg/artpositivenoncompliance>
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/>