

16 September 2021

- 1 To expand our vaccine coverage further and to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, businesses in the Arts and Culture sector in the fields of:
 - (1) dance, voice and theatre training (including speech and drama, actor training), singing and wind/brass instruments and
 - (2) arts education instruction activities with children aged 12 and beloware required to implement the Vaccinate or Regular Test (“**VoRT**”) regime with effect from 1 October 2021.
- 2 Businesses implementing the VoRT regime must ensure that **all their employees and persons** who work under their direction (e.g. instructors and workers) and/or at their premises are **“Fully Vaccinated” or undergo COVID-19 testing twice a week if they are not.**
- 3 Please refer to the enclosed notification (“**VoRT Notice**”) for more details on the obligations of businesses that are required to implement the VoRT regime.

Support for Businesses

- 4 Businesses should conduct Employer Supervised Self Swab (“**ESSS**”) for persons who are required to undergo testing twice a week under the VoRT regime. ESSS involves having these persons use an Antigen Rapid Test (“**ART**”) kit to carry out a swab on themselves under the supervision of a trained supervisor. The enclosed VoRT Notice explains further details on how ESSS should be conducted.
- 5 To support businesses that are conducting ESSS, the Government will bear the costs of training required by supervisors through 31 December 2021.
- 6 The Government will also give further support for businesses that conduct ESSS by providing ART test kits to businesses for persons who have been certified by a medical practitioner in Singapore as medically ineligible to receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and are still required to undergo testing twice a week under the VoRT regime (“**Medically Ineligible Worker(s)**” or “**MIW(s)**”). Businesses should verify a person’s status as a MIW by checking against the original certification or memo that was issued to that person by a medical practitioner in Singapore or the SMS notification sent to that person. The Government’s provision of ART test kits to enterprises for these MIWs will continue through 31 December 2021. For avoidance of doubt, all other persons who are not Fully Vaccinated are ineligible for these Government-provided ART test kits and businesses should make arrangements to comply with the requirements set out in the VoRT Notice.
- 7 To place the **first order** for ART test kits for MIWs, businesses should submit the relevant information using the Order Form found at <http://www.go.gov.sg/nacfetvortorder> by 19 September 2021 (“**Order Form**”). Businesses that operate across multiple premises should submit a separate Order Form

for each premise¹. Businesses must not distribute, supply or sell the ART test kits provided by the Government to any third party.

- 8 The costs for the services and ART test kits that will be used at the Quick Test Centres will also be borne by the Government for MIWs through 31 December 2021.

Support from Businesses

- 9 The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of everyone in the community. We seek the support and understanding of all businesses 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.
- 10 For more details on the VoRT regime, please contact the National Arts Council via NAC_feedback@nac.gov.sg for further clarifications.

¹ For businesses with multiple premises under the same UEN, you may submit your request to create multiple SRS company accounts under the same UEN. However, there must be a unique mobile number and email address used for each account. Businesses without a UEN can indicate their NRIC in the UEN field instead.

VACCINATE OR REGULAR TEST REGIME FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

1. With effect from 1 October 2021, businesses in the Arts & Culture sector² who are in the fields of dance, voice and theatre training (including speech and drama, actor training), singing and wind/brass instruments, or arts education instruction activities with children aged 12 and below (“Businesses”) are required to implement the Vaccinate or Regular Test (“VoRT”) regime. Businesses must comply with the mandatory requirements that are set out in this 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 VoRT regime is to increase the vaccination rate among the selected sectors and to enable us to detect possible infections early among unvaccinated persons, so as to keep our workplaces and community safe.
3. Under the VoRT regime, Businesses who are in the fields of dance, voice and theatre training (including speech and drama, actor training), singing and wind/brass instruments or arts education instruction activities for children aged 12 and below are required to ensure that all their employees and persons who work under their direction or at their premises (e.g. instructors and workers), including those in non-public facing roles, are Fully Vaccinated or undergo regular testing if they are not. The VoRT regime will apply concurrently with any existing Polymerase Chain Reaction Rostered Routine Testing (“PCR RRT”) or Fast and Easy Testing Rostered Routine Testing (“FET RRT”) regime that these persons are currently subject to (see paragraph 7 below for more details).
4. The VoRT regime and the mandatory requirements set out in this notice are imposed on Businesses 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. Checks will be conducted by enforcement teams to verify if Businesses have complied with the mandatory requirements set out in this notice.

VoRT Requirements for Businesses

5. **[Mandatory]** All Businesses must ensure that all their employees³ and persons who work under their direction or at their premises⁴ (collectively, “Workers”) are Fully Vaccinated (as defined in paragraph 8 below) **or** undergo a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (“PCR”) or COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (“ART”)⁵ twice a week

² Businesses include self-employed persons who conduct arts instruction activities.

³ This includes both full and part time employees such as full-time office assistants and part-time instructors.

⁴ This includes contractors, subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace (e.g. cleaners). This also includes business owners such as sole proprietors and partners.

⁵ The ART test **must** be carried out (1) by an approved test provider under the Infectious Diseases (Antigen Rapid Test Providers); (2) via ESSS (refer to paragraphs 13 to 21 below); or (3) by a QTC (refer to paragraph 12 below). For avoidance of doubt, unsupervised self-swabs by Workers are not recognised.

(“**VoRT Requirement**”). For the avoidance of doubt, if a Business consists of only one self-employed person, he or she has to comply with the VoRT Requirement as well.

6. Businesses should guide their Workers who are not Fully Vaccinated to be tested at least once every 3-4 days, i.e. at least two times a week (e.g. Days 3 and 7 of the week or Days 1 and 4 of the week).
7. Businesses whose Workers are subject to existing PCR RRT or FET RRT regimes can recognise any PCR test or ART undergone by those Workers under those regimes during a given week as counting towards the Businesses’ testing requirement for those Workers (if they are not Fully Vaccinated) under the VoRT Requirement for that same week. For example, if a Business has a Worker who is not Fully Vaccinated that underwent a PCR test as part of the RRT regime once during a week, the Business is allowed to recognise that Worker’s PCR test as satisfying one of the two weekly testing requirements for that Worker under the VoRT Requirement.
8. For the purposes of the VoRT Requirement and this notice, a Worker is considered to be “**Fully Vaccinated**” for the periods set out in the third column of Table 1 below if he or she fulfils the relevant requirements for those periods as set out in the corresponding second columns.

Category	Requirement(s)	Period
(1) Vaccinated with no prior history of COVID-19 infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Individual must not have had a history of COVID-19 infection; (b) Individual must have been vaccinated against a COVID-19 infection by the administration of the appropriate regimen of any approved vaccine⁶; and (c) 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated. 	Starting 14 days after the day the individual was so vaccinated and ending 365 days later.
(2) Recovered from COVID-19 infection without prior vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Individual must not have been vaccinated against COVID-19 infection; and (b) Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection. 	Starting the day the individual first tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 via a PCR test and ending 270 days later.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Individual must not have been vaccinated against COVID-19 infection; and (b) Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection; and (c) Individual had a second COVID-19 infection and recovered from it. 	Starting the day the individual first tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 upon via a PCR test for the second COVID-19 infection and ending 270 days later.

⁶ These are limited to: (1) Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine); (2) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; (3) Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine); (4) Covishield COVID-19 vaccine; (5) Johnson & Johnson’s (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine; (6) Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine; (7) Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine; or (8) any other vaccine regimen as approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Where the individual is vaccinated under (3) to (8), their vaccination records must have been ingested into MOH’s national IT systems before they will be recognised.

(3) Recovered from COVID-19 infection and subsequently vaccinated	<p>(a) Individual must have recovered from COVID-19 infection</p> <p>(b) Individual must have been vaccinated against a COVID-19 infection by the administration of one dose of either (1) Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine) or (2) the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in Singapore; and</p> <p>(c) 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated.</p>	Starting 14 days after the day the individual was so vaccinated and ending 365 days later.
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9. **[Mandatory]** When verifying if a Worker is Fully Vaccinated, Businesses shall:
- (1) only recognise the proofs of vaccination as set out in **Annex A**; and
 - (2) regard Workers who decline or are unable to produce the proofs of vaccination as set out in **Annex A** as being **not** Fully Vaccinated for the purposes of the VoRT Requirement and this notice.
10. **[Mandatory]** In the event that a Worker is not Fully Vaccinated and has undergone PCR/ART as part of the Enterprises' VoRT Requirement, Businesses shall:
- (1) verify⁷ the PCR/ART test results obtained by their Workers;
 - (2) not allow any Worker that has obtained an "AG+" or "AG Invalid", "Double Invalid" ART test result (please refer to **Annex B** on details of these various test results) or positive PCR test result to continue working, or enter or remain in the workplace;
 - (3) direct any Worker that has obtained an "AG+" or "Double Invalid" test result to undergo a PCR test and self-isolate at home; and
 - (4) only allow the Worker described in paragraph 10(3) to resume work, or enter or remain in the workplace if the PCR test undergone by the Worker pursuant to paragraph 10(3) has disclosed a test result that shows that he or she is **negative for COVID-19 infection**.
11. To meet the twice weekly testing requirements for Workers that are not Fully Vaccinated under the VoRT Requirement, Businesses should conduct **Employer-Supervised Self-Swab ("ESSS")** for their Workers. Details on how to conduct ESSS are set out in paragraphs 13 to 21 below.
12. For small businesses and freelancers who are not able to organise their own ESSS, they may work with their appointed Sector Lead to go to the Quick Test Centres ("**QTC(s)**") for their tests.

Requirements for Businesses that conduct ESSS

⁷ Businesses 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 Businesses to rely on oral statements by Workers to fulfill this obligation.

13. 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 digital tools such as video conferencing.
14. **[Mandatory]** Businesses conducting ESSS for their Workers are required to ensure that:
 - (1) they have appointed an adequate number of Supervisors to supervise every Worker whenever they carry out the swabs on themselves;
 - (2) the Supervisor has satisfied the training requirements set out under paragraph 15 below and properly performs his supervisory role⁸;
 - (3) Workers comply with the steps set out in paragraph 18 below and properly perform the swabs on themselves;
 - (4) 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 19 below; and
 - (5) Workers who obtain ‘AG+’ or ‘Double Invalid’ test results while conducting ESSS are managed by the Enterprise in accordance with the requirements set out under paragraph 21 below.
 - (6) 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

Training for Supervisors

15. **[Mandatory]** Businesses 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, Businesses must ensure that he or she is Fully Vaccinated against COVID-19⁹ (refer to paragraph 8 for the definition of Fully Vaccinated) before they can perform any supervisory role.
16. Businesses conducting ESSS are advised to nominate at least two Workers per outlet 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

⁸ This includes wearing adequate personal protective equipment and maintaining appropriate infection prevention control procedures while conducting supervision.

⁹ Enterprises can consider asking Supervisors to verify their vaccination status via TraceTogether.

a first-come-first-served basis. Enterprises are advised to book their training slot directly with HMI at [VirtualCampus \(wizlearn.com\)](https://www.virtualcampus.com) as soon as possible.

17. Upon successful registration and confirmation of the course, HMI will send an email notification with the web link for supervisors to attend the virtual training session. Please visit HMI's website at <https://hmi-ihs.com/supervisory-training-in-art-self-swab/> for latest details on the ESSS training details.

Conduct of ESSS by Workers

18. **[Mandatory]** Businesses are required to ensure that their Workers comply with the following when carrying out ESSS:
 - (1) Workers must be supervised¹⁰ by a Supervisor whenever they carry out ESSS;
 - (2) Workers who obtained an "AG Invalid" test result are to undertake a follow-up ART test;
 - (3) Workers who obtained an "AG+" or "Double Invalid" test result are to undertake a follow-up PCR test;
 - (4) Workers must use new ART test kits whenever they carry out ESSS; and
 - (5) Workers must properly dispose of used ART test kits after they have carried out ESSS¹¹.

Uploading of Test Results onto the Swab Registration System ("SRS")

19. **[Mandatory]** Businesses are required to upload the test results obtained by their Workers from ESSS onto SRS in accordance with the following:
 - (1) if the test result is "AG+" or "Double Invalid", Businesses 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-", Businesses 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 5 of **Annex B**.
20. The information that is submitted in the Order Form found at <http://www.go.gov.sg/nacfetvortorder> will also be used by NAC to help Businesses 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.

¹⁰ This can be done in person or virtually.

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

Management of Workers with 'AG+' or 'Double Invalid' Test Result

21. **[Mandatory]** If any Worker obtains an 'AG+' or 'Double Invalid' test result from ESSS, the Enterprise shall comply with all the requirements set out under paragraphs 7 to 8 of **Annex B.**

