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CIRCULAR 37

10 November 2021

NUS Staff and Students

COVID-19: REVISED SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES TO FACILITATE RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Dear Staff and Students

1. On 8 November 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced [calibrated adjustments of Safe Management Measures \(SMMs\)](#) under the ongoing Stabilisation Phase through to 21 November 2021. The updated SMMs for the education sector will facilitate resumption of more activities to enrich learning experiences and student life. These changes take effect **from 10 November 2021**.
 - a. Academic Activities
 - i. Face-to-face classes will remain capped at a maximum of 50 persons (including teaching staff) per venue, with the prevailing SMMs. However, classes involving mask-on group activities can be conducted in groups of **up to 5 persons** with 1 m between each group, an increase from 2 persons. Where required for teaching and learning purposes, the distance between groups of students may be less than 1 m.
 - ii. For SSG-funded Continuing Education and Training programmes, SkillsFuture Singapore's prevailing guidelines for a maximum class size of 40 persons, excluding the trainer(s), for course quality reasons will continue to apply.
 - iii. The group size for mask-off activities will remain at no more than **2 persons**, subject to Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS)¹.
 - iv. Large scale lectures of **up to 250 persons** is permitted if all participants meet the criteria for VDS. Otherwise, the lecture size must remain capped at 50 persons.
 - v. Physical examinations for **up to 250 persons** can be conducted with a maximum of **50 persons (including staff) per zone**, regardless of vaccination status, with the prevailing SMMs.

¹ An individual is considered to meet the criteria for VDS if he/she (i) has received the full regimen of Pfizer-BioNTech / Comirnaty or Moderna with an additional two weeks for vaccine to be effective; (ii) has received the full regimen of WHO EUL vaccines, including their respective duration post-vaccination for the vaccines to be fully effective, and had their vaccination records ingested in MOH's national IT systems; (iii) recovered from COVID-19 within the last 270 days; and (iv) Unvaccinated and has a negative result on a pre-event test (PET) by a MOH-approved COVID-19 test provider in the past 24 hours, covering the duration of the activity.

b. Work activities

- i. **Working from home (WFH) continues to be the default arrangement for staff who are able to carry out their work duties from home.** However, staff who are required to be in the office/ on campus to carry out their work duties (e.g. to facilitate on-campus activities and classes) should do so. Staff are required to adhere to prevailing SMMs.
- ii. Senior E&A staff (Directors and above) and academic staff may return to campus and work in their own individual rooms.

c. Research activities

- i. Research activities (lab-based): Lab-based research staff and students are allowed to return to campus to conduct their laboratory work. They need not be grouped into teams or shifts. Lab users must observe safe distancing of at least 1 m between individuals in the lab. If there are unvaccinated researchers in the lab, the occupancy limit is reduced to 50%.
- ii. Research activities (non lab-based): Non lab-based research staff and students may work on campus provided that the number of individuals occupying the workspace **does not exceed 50** or the capacity of the venue (whichever is lower). Non lab-based researchers must observe safe distancing of at least 1 m between individuals in their enclosed offices. If there are unvaccinated researchers in the workspace, the occupancy limit is reduced to 50%.

d. Campus Dining

- i. Canteens: **2 diners per table** is allowed regardless of vaccination status with seating to be 1 m apart between groups of two diners.
- ii. Other F&B outlets: Up to **2 diners per table** for fully vaccinated individuals is allowed, while only takeaway option is available for unvaccinated customers. **If diners are from the same household (e.g. Resident Fellows and their family), the group size for dining-in is increased to five.**
- iii. Masks must be worn at all times, except when eating or drinking, and socialising is not permitted. Safe Distancing Ambassadors will be deployed during lunch time to ensure adherence to SMMs.

e. Sporting and CCA activities

- i. Student activities on campus can continue, but subject to the following revised guidelines.
 - a) Indoor mask-off activities: **No more than 30 participants** are allowed, with VDS for all participants. There should be at least 1 m distance between individuals, or if this is not possible, at least 1 m distancing between **groups of no more than 2 persons.**

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- b) Outdoor mask-off activities: **No more than 50 participants are allowed**, regardless of vaccination status. There should be at least 1 m distance between individuals, or if this is not possible, at least 1 m distancing between **groups of no more than 2 persons**.
- c) Indoor or Outdoor Mask-on activities: **No more than 50 participants are allowed**, regardless of vaccination status. There should be at least 1 m distance between individuals, or if this is not possible, at least 1 m distancing between **groups of no more than 5 persons**.
- d) Sports activities: In addition to the guidelines on group sizes and participant limits above, sports activities should continue to adhere to other SMMs in SportSG's latest [advisory](#).
- e) Team Sports Pilot: Team sports for currently enrolled students in groups of **up to 10 persons** is allowed, subject to additional SMMs detailed in *Annex A*.
- f) Voice training, speech and drama, singing and playing of wind and brass instruments: In addition to the guidelines on group sizes and participant limits above, these activities should continue to adhere to NAC's prevailing [advisory](#).
2. A summary of SMMs can be found on the Emergency website: <https://emergency.nus.edu.sg/>
3. Regular Fast and Easy Testing (FET) using ART test kits. Staff and students must continue with the regular testing using ART test kits and adhere to the associated healthcare protocol mentioned in Circulars [34](#), [35](#) and [36](#).

If you have further questions, please check with the management office of your faculty, school or department, or email COVID-19@nus.edu.sg.

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Stay updated:

- NUS circulars, FAQs, emergency contact numbers, as well as useful links on the COVID-19 situation are available at emergency.nus.edu.sg.
- The latest NUS-related news, research and commentaries on COVID-19 are available [here](#).
- Please refer to the [Ministry of Health](#) for the latest information on the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.

Proposed SMMs for Pilot Team Sports Formats in the IHLs

The proposed SMMs for the pilot are as follows:

- a. Group Size. The pilot will allow a group of up to 10 fully vaccinated persons (including players, umpires, linesmen, etc.) to play together in a specified play area. All other supervisory staff (e.g. coaches, teachers) should remain at least 2 m away from the play area, and 2 m away from any of the participants.
- b. Participation Requirements for players. The team sports pilot will only be open to currently enrolled students who are fully vaccinated². All students who participate in the team sports will also need a valid self-administered ART test result (done on-site), with test result verified by the teacher/lecturer-in-charge³ before they are allowed to proceed to the field-of-play.
- c. Venue Management. Students using these sports facilities will need to register to use these facilities beforehand, and will need to be checked for their vaccination status as well as unsupervised self-administered ART result before allowed to proceed to the field-of-play, which will be fully cordoned off to other users. IHLs will need to deploy SDAs to ensure adherence to SMMs.
- d. Testing Regime for Venue Staff. All venue staff will be required to be tested once every 7 days if the team sport game takes place indoors (regardless masked or unmasked), and outdoors (unmasked), as per current FET regime for the sport and fitness sector. Unvaccinated venue staff will be required to undergo twice weekly ART testing under the VoRT regime.
- e. Game Session SMMs
 - i. Players will be screened for VDS status, valid negative ART result, and visible symptoms (e.g. coughing, sneezing, breathlessness, runny nose) and be turned away if appear unwell.
 - ii. Players to use the TraceTogether App or Tokens for check-in and check-out.
 - iii. Players are to be masked-up at all times, until it is time to commence strenuous physical activity, and put on their masks when such activity is suspended or has ended.
 - iv. Water may be consumed within the play area, but players must put their masks on immediately after consuming.
 - v. Any equipment provided should be disinfected before and after each game session, before passing the play area to the next group of players.
 - vi. The premises must be wiped down / sanitised before passing on to the next group of players. If venue is enclosed, IHLs should ventilate the room after each game session.
 - vii. IHLs must allow for a minimum of 15 minutes between each game session and/or put in place separate routes if the premises are able to host multiple game sessions at a time, to prevent inter-mingling and mixing between players of different game sessions.

² Fully vaccinated here refers to individuals who have received two doses of the vaccine, or who are recovered cases who have received 1 dose of the vaccine. All unvaccinated individuals (whether they are medically ineligible or not) are not allowed to participate in this team sports pilot at this point.

³ ART tests will need to be done before every game session which the student participates in.

- f. Other SMMs. In addition to the above, all participants are required to adhere to the prevailing SportSG's SMMs for sport and physical exercises & activities.
- g. Feedback. To assist MCCY and SportSG in calibrating the parameters of the pilot, IHLs would need to update MOE on the following details:
 - i. Total number of students who participated in the sports pilot every two weeks
 - ii. Whether any breaches to SMMs were observed during these two weeks
 - iii. Any qualitative feedback from students and operators of sports facilities on the SMMs.