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Ref: ORMC 005/22

CIRCULAR 5

29 March 2022

NUS Staff and Students

**COVID-19: EASING OF SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

1. On 24 March 2022, the Ministry of Health announced the further easing of community Safe Management Measures (SMMs) as Singapore makes progress towards living with COVID-19. New updates and changes are highlighted in **yellow** for ease of reference.
2. Fast and Easy Testing
  - a. With effect from 4 April 2022, the **mandatory Fast and Easy Testing (FET) using Antigen Rapid Tests will no longer be needed for vaccinated staff and students.**
  - b. To protect the health and safety of the community, unvaccinated hostelites will continue to upload a valid FET result to uNivUS every Sunday and Wednesday (see [Circular 34/2021](#)).
  - c. Similarly, unvaccinated students are required to upload a valid FET test result to uNivUS before coming to campus. The validity of the FET result is 4 days.
  - d. For (b) and (c) above, the cost of FET kits is to be borne by the individual. The FET kits can be purchased from the vending machines on campus.
  - e. Notwithstanding the lifting of mandatory FET for vaccinated staff and students, individuals who are unwell or are exposed to an infected person are strongly encouraged to test themselves using the FET kits. Should they test positive, they are to update their health status on uNivUS and adhere to COVID-19 [health protocols](#).
  - f. Where necessary, vaccinated and medically ineligible staff and students can continue to collect free FET test kits if they self-test and upload two FET test results in uNivUS.
3. From 29 March 2022, community SMMs will be eased along five key parameters:
  - a. Group size – Permissible group size for social gatherings will be increased from 5 persons to **10 persons for mask-off activities.**
  - b. Mask-wearing – **Mask-wearing continues to be required for indoor settings, but optional in outdoor settings.**
  - c. Workplace requirements – **Up to 75%** of employees who are able to work from home can now return to the workplace.

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- d. Safe distancing – Safe distancing continues to be encouraged but will not be required between individuals or groups for mask-on settings. **A safe distance of 1 metre will continue to be required for mask-off settings.**
- e. Capacity limit – events of up to 1,000 participants are permitted, or **75%** of the capacity of the venue, whichever is higher.

Please refer to **Annexes A and B** for more information.

While the local COVID-19 situation has stabilised and allowed us to ease our SMMs, we still need to stay vigilant. Please continue to follow all health protocols as we strive towards a COVID-19 resilient nation.

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

Dr Peck Thian Guan  
Senior Director  
Office of Risk Management and Compliance

**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](https://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.

## Annex A

### 1. Access to campus

- a. Staff
  - i. Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) still apply, i.e. unvaccinated or partially vaccinated staff are not allowed to return to campus.
  - ii. **75% of workforce who can work from home can return to the workplace.** Departments may adopt split teams and use the “Ad-Hoc Request to Work on Campus” function on the NUS Emergency website to facilitate the management of the workforce returning to campus.
- b. Students – exempted from VDS requirements to enter campus for now, until further notice.
- c. Visitors – VDS applies to all visitors to campus. Visitors must check-in using TraceTogether-only SafeEntry before entering NUS buildings, offices, labs or hostels. Use of NUS Visitor Registration System (VRS) will no longer be required.

### 2. Dining on campus

- a. Canteens and food courts – **up to 5 persons per group**
- b. Restaurants and other F&B outlets – **up to 10 persons per group with VDS**
- c. Dining hall in hostels – **up to 10 persons per group with VDS**
- d. Unvaccinated individuals are to consume their meals individually

Random checks will be conducted in canteens and food courts to ensure that only fully vaccinated persons are dining-in at these places.

### 3. Other SMMs

- a. Indoor spaces
  - i. Wearing of mask is mandatory
  - ii. Events can have up to 1,000 participants, or **75% of the venue capacity**, whichever is higher. Safe distancing is not needed. UCC Hall can accommodate up to 1,200 participants.
  - iii. Vocalisation activities (e.g. choral singing or cheering) – allowed if all are masked
- b. Outdoor spaces
  - i. Wearing of mask is encouraged, but not mandatory
  - ii. If unmasked, activity is to be conducted in groups of 10, with 1 metre safe distancing between groups. No more than 50 participants are allowed, regardless of vaccination status.
- c. Events with more than 50 participants are to comply with SMMs in Annex B.

Please refer to [detailed SMMs](#) on the NUS Emergency website for more information.

**Annex B**

**SMMs for Large-Scale Student Events  
 (defined as events with more than 50 participants)**

<b>SMM</b>	<b>Description</b>
Participants	If all participants are from NUS (i.e. staff and/or enrolled students only), the event can proceed without VDS. However, if the event involves external participants (e.g. parents), the event is subject to VDS.
Event size	Event sizes are based on the capacity of the venue. Events can take place with up to 1,000 persons or <b>75% of the capacity of the venue</b> , whichever is higher.
TraceTogether-only SafeEntry (TTSE)	All participants must check in to the event venue via TTSE.
Mask-off	All participants are not allowed to mask-off during the event.  Speakers can remove their mask when delivering their speech, but should remain <b>at least 1 metre away</b> from participants when delivering their speech.
Singing	<b>Singing of the National Anthem and school songs are allowed, subject to masks being worn throughout the activity.</b>
Photo taking	For official photos (e.g. group photo of award winners taken by official photographers), there should be no more than 20 persons in the photo. Persons in the photo should be positioned at least 1 metre apart. They may only unmask during photo taking, and must promptly put their mask on in between and after the photo taking.  Participants are allowed to take personal photographs. During these photographs, individuals should remain masked throughout. Institutions should put in place crowd management processes to prevent crowding and unnecessary intermingling due to photo taking.
F&B	<b>Food and beverages can be provided as part of the event.</b>  <b>However, this is subject to VDS, even if all the participants are from the same institutions.</b>  <b>Participants should be assigned to a fixed seat for food consumption, seated in groups of up to 10 persons, and should stick to this fixed seating as much as possible.</b>  <b>There should be 1 metre safe distancing between each group of 10 persons.</b>