

Circuit breaker dos and don'ts

It has been a week since the start of Singapore's Covid-19 circuit breaker period. Increasingly strict measures have been put in place almost daily, and the Government has shown it is serious in enforcing them. **Melissa Heng** looks at the new normal here, as efforts to stem the spread of the coronavirus kick into high gear.



PENALTIES

- There are no more written warnings for those who breach safe distancing measures. Offenders will be issued a \$300 fine on the spot, and repeat offenders could receive higher fines and be jailed for up to six to 12 months.
- Thousands of enforcement officers have been deployed to ensure that people adhere to measures. On Sunday, more than 200 fines of \$300 each were issued to people who did not comply with elevated safe distancing measures.



SOCIAL GATHERINGS

- All gatherings with family or friends who do not live together are banned.
- These include gatherings in homes and public spaces.



LEAVING HOME

- Stay home where possible and go out only for essentials such as food or to get medical help. Before heading to a mall, go to <https://www.spaceout.gov.sg> to check how crowded it is.
- Valid reasons to leave the house:
 - To work for or with an essential service provider, specified schools or early childhood development centres
 - To take your child to childcare if you and your spouse work for an essential service provider
 - To get essential goods and services, such as buying groceries
 - To exercise alone or with others you live with in green or open spaces
 - To seek medical help for suspected Covid-19 infection or other urgent treatment
 - To provide assistance to seniors (aged 60 years and above) or individuals with physical or mental disability
 - To seek or render help in an emergency
 - To comply with the law (for example, a court order)
 - To report for national service
 - To move house
 - To leave Singapore
- You may enter another person's home only to deliver essential goods or services, provide assistance to a senior or an individual with physical or mental disability, or to seek or provide help in an emergency.

CHILDCARE



- All schools have now moved to full home-based learning. Parents who work in essential services and cannot make alternative care arrangements can contact their child's primary school or special education school for assistance.
- Pre-schools remain open only to serve a limited group of parents working in essential services who are unable to find alternative care arrangements. Priority will be given to children of healthcare and low-wage workers in essential services.
- Grandparents can continue to care for their grandchildren only if they are in the same household.
- Parents are not allowed to drop their children off daily at their grandparents' place. If grandparents living in a different household are to care for children, the children must stay at their grandparents' house for the entire circuit breaker period.
- Parents can tap the help of grandparents living in another household daily only if the parents are essential service workers and are unable to work from home. Other exemptions include if one parent is a healthcare professional such as a doctor, nurse or support care staff and is unable to work from home, or one parent is an essential service worker unable to work from home and the family has a child or children aged below three.



EXERCISING AT A PARK

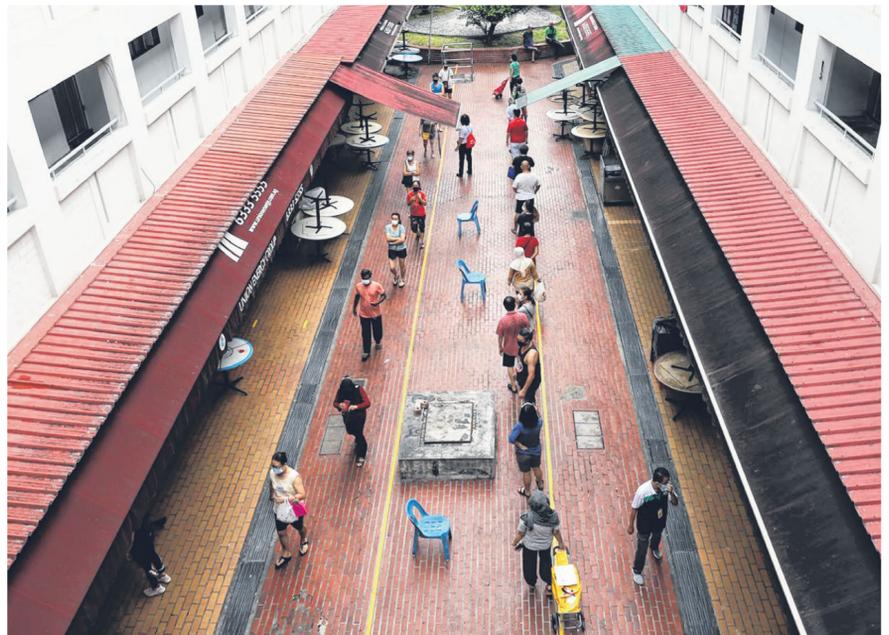
- Head to a park that is near you alone or with your immediate family members in the same household only.
- Certain facilities in parks have closed to prevent the gathering of groups. These include fitness corners, playgrounds, dog runs, fishing areas, football fields and basketball courts. Some parks and park connectors have been closed temporarily to ensure ample space for safe distancing. These include the TreeTop Walk, Southern Ridges and Ulu Pandan park connector.
- Go to safedistparks.nparks.gov.sg for the latest updates on which parks and park connectors are closed. The site can also be used to check on visitorship levels at major parks, gardens and nature areas. Choose a less crowded green space near you to exercise safely and minimise travel.
- Do not gather in groups while at the park.
- Head home after your exercise so that others can use the park.



ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Wear a mask. Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan said last Saturday that all commuters should wear masks on public transport.
- Keep your distance. With trains and buses relatively

emptier during the circuit breaker period, passengers are reminded to keep 1m apart. Transport ambassadors on the ground will help to regulate the flow of commuters and to remind them to space out.



GETTING ESSENTIALS



- Wet markets that tend to draw crowds such as Geylang Serai Market and Tiong Bahru Market have implemented safe distancing measures such as limiting access. Customers visiting these markets should expect to queue and maintain a 1m separation when queuing.
- Wear a mask when visiting markets, supermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and shopping malls. Those who do not wear masks will likely be turned away. Customers should keep 1m apart while shopping for essentials and while queuing to make payment.
- Patronise markets during weekdays between 10am and noon on weekends.



DINING

- Get it to go: Food and beverage outlets remain open for takeaways or deliveries only. At hawker centres and food and beverage establishments, eating and drinking or any form of loitering are not allowed.
- Hawkers can eat at tables immediately in front of their stalls. But they must not share tables or gather, and should always maintain a

- distance of at least 1m from others.
- Taxi drivers and food delivery riders can eat at public spaces or in their vehicles if it is not practical for them to head home for meals.
- Workers providing essential services should have meals at their work premises while practising safe distancing.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q I am divorced and my children take turns to live with me and my former spouse. Can this arrangement continue?**
- A** Yes, but keep changes and movement or travel to a minimum where possible.
- Q My house is too small to accommodate so many of us staying at home all the time. Can we take turns to visit our relatives' houses where there is more space?**
- A** No. The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) said all social gatherings with friends and family members not within the same household should stop during this period. First-time offenders face a composition fine of \$300. Repeat offenders will face higher fines, or prosecution in court for egregious cases.
- Q Am I allowed to visit my boyfriend/girlfriend or fiancé/fiancee or spouse or sibling living in a different house?**
- A** No. Use digital means such as video or phone calls to keep in contact during this time. All social gatherings with friends and family members not within the same household should stop during this period, said MEWR. First-time offenders face a composition fine of \$300. Repeat offenders will face higher fines, or prosecution in court for egregious cases.
- Q Can I only stay at my registered address?**
- A** Stay at the address that you usually stay in and do not move around, even if you have other places of accommodation.
- Q What if someone comes close to me (less than 1m distance) in a public space? Will I be punished?**
- A** Keep a distance of at least 1m from others in public places. Enforcement officers will assess the facts of each case carefully. Action will be taken against egregious breaches.
- Q Where can individuals have meals?**
- A** Those not involved in the provision of essential services should eat at home. Hawkers and coffee shop stall operators can eat at tables in front of their stalls, either alone and with a distance of at least 1m from another individual. No sharing of tables is allowed. Workers providing essential services should eat at their work premises, while practising safe distancing measures. For those whose work requires them to be on the move, such as delivery services, they should return to their offices or homes for their meals. If this is not practical, they can eat in their vehicles, or in public spaces such as void decks and park benches, but they must:
- Dine alone and keep at least a 1m distance from others,
 - Dine quickly and observe cleanliness, and
 - Carry identification to indicate their employment status as essential service and selected service workers.