Safe working and living

Construction activities will gradually resume from June 2 and firms will have to put in place safe management measures to guard against the spread of Covid-19 among workers. These are the key measures and guidelines announced yesterday that employers, dormitory operators and workers should observe.

The workforce

- Employers should establish a system to track the health of workers daily.
- Workers' interactions on rest days should be managed.
- Workers should be encouraged to use contact tracing tools like the TraceTogether app (below, inset).
- Regular testing for workers who return to work, as frequently as once every two weeks. The plan is to eventually test all 323,000 workers in dormitories. About 10 per cent of workers have been tested.
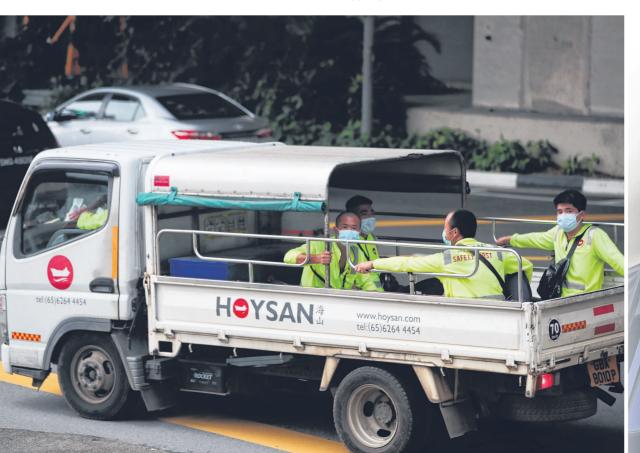- Residents allowed to leave the dorm for non-work reasons have to follow safe distancing measures like not gathering in large groups.
- Measures to be taken to reduce crowd sizes at popular locations where workers tend to gather.

Accommodation and transport

- Dedicated transport between work sites and places of accommodation. Workers should take up at most half the seating capacity on open-air transport vehicles such as lorries (below).
- Workers must be seated at safe distances from one another and wear masks when ferried to and from work.

- All workers involved in the same project will have to be housed together.
- This could be at a block in an existing dorm or in temporary quarters at a work site.
- Reduce human traffic in communal areas in dorms.

Work sites

- No cross-deployment of teams or workers allowed, at least initially. Additional measures in future could include having cross-deployed teams work in separate zones or at different times.
- Workers should be divided into different work zones and have staggered breaks.
- Tracking of movements in and out of work sites as well as to specific zones within a work site.

Dormitory blocks housing healthy workers

- Residents in blocks that house recovered workers or those who tested negative for Covid-19 must be physically segregated from other residents in the dorm.
- Such workers will be allowed to leave the block only for work and must return after work.
- Track all movement in and out of dorms.
- Set up barriers and mark out routes from dorm blocks to common areas and entrances to prevent inter-mixing of workers from different blocks.
- Within each block, residents to stay within the rooms on their level, and not move freely to other levels (below).
- Specific showers, wash basins and toilets to be marked out for occupants of the same room.
- Stoves in communal kitchens assigned to individual rooms to prevent inter-mixing during cooking.

- Orders in minimarts, canteens and shops should be placed via calls, text messages or on online platforms.
- Residents given time slots to use other communal facilities such as kitchens and outdoor recreational areas.
- Designated and segregated waiting areas as well as staggered pick-up and drop-off timings for workers going to and from work.