

8 ways CNY will be different this year

With the rise in the number of Covid-19 cases in the community over the last few weeks, measures are being stepped up to curb the spread of the virus. Here are eight reasons why this year's Chinese New Year festivities will be more subdued than usual.



YUSHENG WITHOUT THE CHEERS

Diners should avoid shouting auspicious phrases when tossing yusheng or during lohei. F&B establishments serving lohei must ensure that both staff and patrons comply with this requirement. Households are encouraged to comply with this advisory at home.



MASKS AT EATERIES

While dining out, people should continue to wear their masks when they are not eating or drinking. Masks should be worn while tossing yusheng or during lohei. MOH said it will step up enforcement checks at F&B establishments, malls and other crowded public spaces.



OTHER RULES ON DINING OUT REMAIN IN PLACE

All rules currently in place at eateries will apply to reunion dinners. For example, booking of multiple tables and intermingling between tables will not be allowed. Singing and other live performances will continue to be disallowed. Those who violate the rules can be fined and prosecuted in court, or have their operations suspended.



FEWER PHYSICAL VISITS

Members of the public are advised to connect with their families and friends virtually, instead of making physical visits. People should try to visit only family members, and at most two other households a day as far as possible, said MOH. It also advised Singaporeans to keep their social circles small and avoid mixing with multiple groups.



LIONS BANISHED, DRAGONS BANNED

Dragon dances are cancelled and lion dancers cannot perform at many public spaces to prevent crowds from gathering. Performances adhering to social distancing rules can continue in offices, factories, hotels, temples and shops in mega shopping centres, but not at coffee shops, food centres, markets, homes and residential areas.



NO GATHERINGS FOR COMPANIES

Companies should not organise gatherings and social activities such as lohei or Chinese New Year meals. These are not considered work-related events and therefore not allowed.



EIGHT-PERSON CAP

From Jan 26, a cap of eight unique visitors per household a day will be imposed. Currently, up to eight people can visit a household at any one time. The cap on group sizes for social gatherings outside the house will remain at eight.



GIVE E-HONGBAO

To reduce queues for new physical notes at banks, Singaporeans are urged to send e-hongbao through banking and e-payment apps. Those who want to collect new notes will have to make an appointment with their bank.