

Covid-19 rules from tomorrow

From tomorrow till Aug 18, Singapore will revert to phase two (heightened alert) with tighter measures in place to tackle the worsening Covid-19 situation. The Ministry of Health (MOH) yesterday said the new measures will supersede those previously announced on July 19. **Rei Kurohi** looks at the key announcements.



Dining in and other mask-off activities banned once more

- All food and beverage establishments, including hawker centres, will be allowed to offer only takeaway and delivery services.
- Cinemas must not serve food or drinks.
- Personalised care services like facials, saunas and make-up services must also cease.
- The same goes for strenuous indoor exercise classes or sports activities involving participants removing their masks. Classes where individuals keep their masks on can continue with class sizes

capped at 30

and groups **capped at two.**

- These restrictions will not apply to medical and dental consultations that require patients to have their masks removed. Non-medical facial treatments will not be exempted.
- However, wedding receptions, which involve dining in, will still be allowed to continue. The group size remains **capped at five** people per table.



Cap on group sizes reduced to two

- The limit on group sizes for social gatherings will be cut from five to two, with a cap of two distinct visitors to a household per day.
- Individuals should continue to limit their overall number of social gatherings to not more than two a day, whether to another household or meeting friends and family members in a public place, MOH said.
- Children being cared for daily by their grandparents will not be counted towards these caps.
- The new two-person limit also applies to staycations at hotels, unless all individuals are from the same household.
- In-person tuition and enrichment classes can continue with class sizes of

up to 50,

but groups must be **capped at two.**

- Working from home remains the default arrangement and social gatherings at the workplace will still be banned.



Limits for live events cut to 100

- The cap for live performances, spectator sports events, wedding solemnisations and receptions, cinema film screenings, worship services, as well as events in the meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (Mice) industry will be **cut from 250 to 100** for events with pre-event testing (PET).
- Group sizes for these events will be capped at two, except for wedding receptions.
- Events without PET remain capped at

50 attendees.

- Unmasked singing and playing of wind instruments will not be allowed once again.
- People attending Mice events will also not be allowed to remove their masks.



Tighter measures for religious activities

- Religious rituals which are not part of congregational worship sessions must be capped at two worshippers.
- All other religious activities such as religious classes must be suspended.
- Productions for the purpose of live-streamed worship sessions will be allowed to have **up to 15 people** present, of whom up to 10 can be unmasked at any one time. No more than two people can be allowed to sing or play wind instruments and they must maintain a distance of 2m from the others present.
- For wedding receptions, PET will be required for all attendees.
- Previously, PET was required for only the main wedding party, which usually consists of the couple and their bridesmaids or groomsmen, for events with

up to 50 attendees.

- There is no change for funerals, which remain **capped at 20 people** at any point on all days.



CCAs, other non-essential activities in schools suspended

- All in-person co-curricular activities (CCAs) and other non-essential enrichment activities in schools will be suspended till further notice.
- These include external activities like learning journeys.
- For physical education classes, schools can conduct only individual mask-off activities in outdoor or well-ventilated venues.
- Group activities will not be allowed, including mask-off music and drama classes.



Capacity caps for attractions, malls to be cut

- The operating capacity of attractions will be reduced to

25 per cent,

down from 50 per cent.

- This includes museums and public libraries, as well as cruises.
- The cap for all tour groups will be **cut to 20**, down from 50.
- Shopping malls and showrooms will also have to reduce their maximum occupancy limit from 10 sq m of gross floor area per person to

16 sq m per person.



Mandatory SafeEntry check-in for all markets, hawker centres

- TraceTogether-only SafeEntry requirements will be enforced at all wet markets and hawker centres in Singapore.
- This means that everyone entering these places must check in using the TraceTogether app or token.
- MOH said wet markets and hawker centres are places frequently visited by the public and are also where many seniors tend to congregate.
- These measures are required for quicker contact tracing, so potential transmission in markets and hawker centres can be curbed, it added.



More support measures for affected businesses

- The Government will provide a support package for affected businesses and workers, given that the tightened safe management measures will remain in place at least until Aug 18.
- MOH said this package will "take reference" from the support measures provided during the previous phase two (heightened alert) period.
- It added that the Ministry of Finance will announce more details in the next few days.

