

Issued on 10 October 2022

VACCINATION OUR PRIMARY DEFENCE IN LIVING WITH COVID-19

On **7 October 2022**, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced the lifting of Vaccination-Differentiated safe management measures (SMMs) from **10 October 2022** (see Annex A).

2. The key change affecting religious activities from **10 October 2022** is:
 - a. **Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS) will be lifted fully.**

Please see Annex B for a summary of this change for various religious activities.

3. We urge ROs to remain vigilant and be ready to put in place SMMs at short notice should the situation worsens, so as to protect the public, safeguard our healthcare workers and conserve hospital capacity.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Worship Services

4. From **10 October 2022**, **Vaccination-Differentiated SMMs (VDS) will no longer be required for services involving more than 500 persons.**
5. ROs and worshippers are encouraged to maintain good hygiene practices such as avoiding sharing of personal items and cleaning any items that are for shared use (e.g. microphones).
6. Worshippers are also encouraged to continue bringing along their personal prayer items if required.

Marriage Solemnizations

7. ROs may continue to use places of worship to conduct marriage solemnizations.
 - a. From **10 October 2022**, **VDS will no longer be required for marriage solemnizations attended by more than 500 persons.**
 - b. Refer to ROM/ROMM's guidelines for more details on the applicable SMMs for marriage solemnizations.¹

¹ Refer to ROM/ROMM's guidelines and the SMMs for Marriage Solemnizations at: <https://www.marriage.gov.sg>.

Funerals

8. Funerals, funeral wakes or funeral processions held during or before the burial or cremation of the deceased in places of worship continue to be allowed with no capacity limit.
- a. Mask-wearing is not required.
 - b. Food and drinks, including individually packed food and titbits and self-service buffet lines, are allowed to be served at funeral events, except at government-managed facilities e.g. Mandai Crematorium and Choa Chu Kang Cemetery where no food and drinks are allowed in the premises.

Other Religious Activities

9. From **10 October 2022**, VDS will no longer be required for religious rites that are not part of a worship service and other religious activities (e.g. pastoral services) involving more than 500 persons.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD & BEVERAGES

10. Consumption of Food and Beverages (F&B) continues to be allowed in places of worship. This includes communal meals served by community kitchens in places of worship.² From **10 October 2022**, VDS will no longer be required if the activity exceeds 500 persons.

DEPLOYMENT OF MANPOWER

11. Religious workers and administrative staff should continue to comply with prevailing workplace SMMs stipulated by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and check MOM's guidelines for any further updates.³

² Please refer to Singapore Food Agency's website (<https://www.sfa.gov.sg/covid-19/SDM>) for details.

³ For more information, please refer to MOM's advisory at <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19>.

CONTINUING TO EXERCISE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

12. We urge ROs and their worshippers to continue to exercise personal and social responsibility through maintaining hygiene, testing and minimizing social interactions when unwell, and keeping up-to-date with vaccinations. These steps will allow our ROs to be more resilient as we progress steadily towards living with COVID-19 and the new variants that emerge from time to time.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND YOUTH

For more information and FAQs on COVID-19 for the religious sector, please visit www.cpro.gov.sg or contact MCCY's Crisis Preparedness for Religious Organisations Programme Office (cpro@mccy.gov.sg).

FIVE CORE PARAMETERS TO RESET OUR SMMs

Parameter	Current Posture
(1) Group sizes	No limit
(2) Mask-wearing	Required on public transport ⁴ and healthcare and residential care settings ⁵
(3) Workplace requirements	All can return to office
(4) Safe distancing	Not required
(5) Capacity Limits	No limit ⁶

⁴ Public transport settings that require mask-wearing include all public transport (i.e. on MRT/LRT and public buses) and indoor public transport facilities (e.g. boarding areas at bus interchanges and MRT platforms). Mask-wearing will continue to be encouraged in crowded areas.

⁵ Healthcare facilities and residential care homes that require mask-wearing include indoor premises of hospitals and polyclinics (inclusive of retail, F&B, common areas and other facilities within the hospital/polyclinic building), private primary care and dental facilities, specialist facilities, TCM clinics, renal dialysis centres, clinical and radiological laboratories, day hospices, residential care homes (such as nursing homes), COVID-19 care facilities, testing centres and vaccination centres and ambulances and medical transport vehicles.

⁶ VDS for dining-in in F&B establishments (including hawker centres), nightclubs where dancing among patrons is one of the intended activities, and events with more than 500 participants to be lifted from 10 October 2022.

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES IN SMMS FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Religious Activity	From 29 August 2022	From 10 October 2022
Permissible Group Size	No group size limit	No change
Congregational and Worship Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to VDS for services involving more than 500 persons at any one time. • The mask-wearing requirement for indoor religious activities will be removed. 	VDS is no longer required for services involving more than 500 persons at any one time.
Other Religious Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to VDS for activities involving more than 500 persons at any one time. • Singing in religious classes without masks on will be allowed. 	VDS is no longer required for activities involving more than 500 persons at any one time.
Marriage Solemnizations	Mask-wearing will not be required for indoor solemnizations.	<p>VDS is no longer required for marriage solemnizations attended by more than 500 persons at any one time.</p> <p><i>Refer to the Registry of Marriages and Registry of Muslim Marriages for the detailed SMMs for marriage solemnizations.</i></p>