

15 March 2022

Dear Student Care Operators

Revised Measures for Student Care Centres (SCCs) Against COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

This circular summarises all relevant measures from all COVID-19 related circulars issued by MSF to-date.

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) had earlier deferred the streamlining of Safe Management Measures (SMMs) in view of the surge in daily cases. As daily local case numbers have begun to fall gradually, MTF has announced that they will proceed with the simplification and streamlining of SMMs. This will prepare us for further easing of measures and the safe resumption of normal activities, when the conditions are right.

2 We had on 25 February 2022 informed the sector that the effective date for revised measures on safe distancing and social gatherings between staff will be pushed back. In line with MTF's latest direction for further easing of measures, we will proceed with the revised measures on safe distancing and social gatherings between staff in SCCs (please refer to paragraphs 4 to 8). We are also updating some COVID-Safe Access measures as indicated in paragraph 3. Notwithstanding these revised measures, we urge SCCs to remain vigilant towards risks of infection, to safeguard the health and safety of children and staff in the centres.

COVID-Safe Access

a. 90-day exemption for recovered COVID-19 patients

3 **[New]** As recovered COVID-19 individuals have immunity to the virus, **SCC staff and children who have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 90 days will be exempted from Health Risk Notice (HRN), regardless of their vaccination status.** These individuals can disregard the HRN SMS if they receive it within 90 days of their positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or Antigen Rapid Test (ART) result (including ART that are self-administered). For a staff/child who has tested positive via a self-administered ART, SCCs can obtain a written declaration from the staff/parents to verify that child was tested positive via self-administered ART, if necessary.

b. Staff/ children with household members on HRN

4 **[Updated information in bold]** In line with national health protocols, **SCC staff/ children with household members on HRN may return to SCC without a need for the household member to show a negative ART result for the day.** Please refer to updates in [Annex B](#).

COVID-Safe Behaviour

c. Safe distancing

5 MTF has announced that safe distancing will not be required between individuals or groups in all mask-on settings. Safe distancing will continue to be required for all mask-off settings. Where safe distancing is required, the distance will be streamlined to a single safe distance of 1 metre for all settings.

6 **[Updated information in bold]** From 15 March 2022, for mask-on settings, SCCs are encouraged to maintain safe distancing of 1 metre between individuals, where reasonably practicable.

7 **[Updated information in bold]** From 15 March 2022, if it is necessary to have a visitor in the SCC, **visitors are encouraged to keep a safe distance of 1 metre (reduced from 2 metres) from staff and children, where possible.**

COVID-Safe Classroom

d. Social gatherings between staff


8 **[Updated information in bold]** From 15 March 2022, **social gatherings for staff will be permitted within the SCC, in a group of up to 5 persons. There should be no social gatherings of staff across SCCs.**

Conclusion

9 Please share the above information with your staff. The latest revisions to the SMMs have been incorporated into Annex A. If you need further assistance, please contact your respective Student Care Officer (SCO). **School-based SCCs are to refer to the advisories issued by MOE and/or school administration for more details.**

10 As we need to monitor and assess the COVID-19 situation in SCCs, we seek operators' cooperation to update MSF of **PCR positive or healthcare provider-administrated ART positive cases separately, using the weblinks or QR codes below.** The reporting deadline remains at 5pm daily. We will continue to review the safe management measures in SCCs and update SCCs of any further developments.

PCR positive	Report via QR code  Or via https://go.gov.sg/msf-report-loa
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Healthcare Provider-administrated ART positive	Report via QR code  Or via https://form.gov.sg/61712a27b0a9b90013824ea7
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11 **We would like to remind SCCs that children, staff and visitors who are unwell (even those with slight symptoms) should not be allowed to enter the SCC premises.** Let us continue to work together as a community, to keep SCCs safe for everyone and our children can continue to learn and thrive.

Yours faithfully

DENISE LOW (MS)
DIRECTOR
SERVICE DELIVERY AND COORDINATION DIVISION (SDCD)
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Safe Management Measures for COVID-Safe SCCs: COVID-Safe ABCs

[UPDATED] SCCs must ensure that the following safe management measures (SMMs) are clearly communicated to staff, and are implemented well and consistently. **MSF Student Care Officers may visit SCCs to provide guidance, check on compliance with the measures and support the student care community.**

A. COVID-Safe Access

To ensure Safe Access, SCCs are to implement the following measures to ensure that individuals who may pose a risk to transmission are not allowed access into the SCC premises:

a. Health protocols for SCC staff and children who are confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases

- ☑ **[UPDATED]** Please refer to [Annex B](#) for the health protocols for SCC staff and children who are confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

b. From 15 January 2022, under the Workforce Vaccination Measures, only SCC staff who are fully vaccinated, certified to be medically ineligible for vaccination, or have recovered from COVID-19 within 180 days, can return to the SCC.

- ☑ Only SCC staff who are fully vaccinated, certified to be medically ineligible or have recovered from COVID-19 within 180 days, can return to the SCC.
- ☑ Unvaccinated SCC staff will not be allowed to return to the SCC.
- ☑ From 14 February 2022, persons aged 18 years and above who have completed the primary vaccination series and are eligible for booster vaccination will be considered as fully vaccinated for only 270 days after the last dose in their primary vaccination series. Beyond the 270 days, they will continue to maintain their vaccinated status only upon receiving their booster. Also, the Sinovac-CoronaVac vaccine should only be used as a booster by persons medically ineligible to receive the mRNA vaccines.
 - Persons who have recovered from COVID-19 and have completed their primary series vaccination do not require an additional booster dose at this point in time. They will continue to be considered fully vaccinated after 14 February 2022. However, it is safe for such persons to receive a booster dose from five months after their last dose and our vaccination centres will not turn away such individuals.

c. Restriction of persons conducting supplementary programmes

- ☑ SCCs may resume face-to-face enrichment programmes but are strongly encouraged to hold enrichment classes online as much as possible. This is to reduce the risk of transmission within and across SCCs.
- ☑ Should SCCs resume in-person enrichment classes, external persons providing such programmes who are fully vaccinated may serve up to 4 SCCs, subject to the prevailing SMMs. All higher risk, mask-off enrichment programmes (e.g. those involving wind instruments) remain suspended.

- SCCs and supplementary programme providers must strictly adhere to the following SMMs for all supplementary programmes:
 - **Persons conducting these supplementary programmes must adhere to Workforce Vaccination Measures.** From 15 January 2022, only persons who are fully vaccinated, certified to be medically ineligible for vaccination or have recovered from COVID-19 within 180 days, can enter the SCC to conduct these programmes.
 - **Persons conducting these supplementary programmes are no longer required to undergo Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) and testing requirements.**
 - **Persons conducting these supplementary programmes must engage children strictly within their existing classes/groups.** SCCs are not allowed to combine children from different classes/groups for any supplementary programme session. Where children are split into smaller groups within their regular class, they should remain within the same groups when attending the supplementary programme sessions and not mix.
 - **[Updated] Persons conducting these supplementary programmes are encouraged to maintain safe distancing of 1 metre from children during the sessions.** They should also wash or sanitise their hands after each session. If a common space is used for the programme, the tables and high touch point areas should be wiped down and disinfected between each use by different classes.
 - **Persons conducting these supplementary programmes must use the TraceTogether (TT) App** on their mobile phones or the TT token at all times.
- There will be no cap on the number of classes that persons conducting supplementary programmes can serve within the SCC. This is naturally limited, as they are usually at the SCC on selected days for short periods of time and cater only to selected children.

d. Restriction of visitors allowed in SCCs

- SCCs are not to allow visitors who are on Isolation Order or Stay-Home Notice (SHN) to enter your premises. Those on a Health Risk Notice (HRN) are to produce proof of negative ART result for that day during the period of HRN.
- An SCC should NOT allow any child who is not enrolled in its centre, or who attends another branch's SCC, to enter its premises during operating hours. This follows the restrictions to entry by staff of other centres to minimise the risk of contamination across centres.
- SCCs are to restrict casual visitors to minimise the risk of community transmission. Only visitors who are needed to support the running of the SCCs (e.g. contractors) and those who need to perform necessary functions (e.g. MSF officers, MSF appointed auditors) may enter the premises. **All visitors entering the SCC during operational hours must be fully vaccinated. Visitors are no longer required to show evidence of a negative ART before entering the SCC.**

- ☑ **[Updated information in bold]** If it is necessary to have a visitor in the SCC, temperature checks and travel declarations must be obtained. Visitors are **encouraged** to keep a safe distance of **1 metre** (instead of 2 metres) from staff and children, where possible.
- ☑ Children who are newly enrolled into the SCC can be accompanied by their parent during their first and/or second day at the SCC, subject to the following SMMs:
 - Parent accompanying the child must be fully vaccinated.
 - Parent may accompany their child for up to half a day for the first 2 days of SCC. A different parent may accompany the child on separate days, if necessary. SCCs may exercise flexibility and allow more time for parents of children with additional needs (e.g. children with special needs), who may need a longer period for adjustment.
 - Only one parent may accompany the newly enrolled child and there must be no more than 5 parents in a class at any given time. SCCs must ensure safe distancing and avoid overcrowding in the classroom and SCC. SCCs may schedule timeslots for each class if there are more than 5 parental requests for the day.
 - **[Updated information in bold]** Parents accompanying their children should limit interactions to only their child and their child's teacher(s)/centre operator. They are **encouraged to** maintain a **safe distance of 1 metre** (instead of 2 metres) from other children and staff in the SCC and avoid interactions with other children/ staff/parents within the SCC.
 - Parents accompanying the child must use the TT App on their mobile phones or the TT token at all times-
- ☑ All other parents remain restricted from entering the SCC premises. Parent-teacher conferences are to be carried out via teleconferences or online engagements (e.g. video conferencing). For potential parents, they must also not be allowed entry during operating hours. SCCs are to substitute with alternatives (e.g. virtual tours and photos).
- ☑ To minimise the number of casual visitors entering the SCC premises, SCCs should designate a 'drop-off point' outside the SCC for deliveries by vendors and ensure proper sanitisation and wiping down of all goods and items that are delivered.

e. Health checks and temperature screening

- ☑ On arrival: SCCs are to continue with temperature screening and health checks for all children, staff and visitors.

Besides health checks for visible symptoms, SCCs are to explicitly ask all children, staff and visitors the following questions during health checks:

- i. Are you unwell?
- ii. Do you have a cough?
- iii. Do you have a sore throat?
- iv. Do you have a runny nose?
- v. Do you have shortness of breath?
- vi. Do you have a loss of sense of smell?
- vii. Are you unwell in any way (besides the above)*?

- viii. Are there adult household members who are unwell with fever and/ or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath?

** During health checks, SCCs should look out for general signs of children who are unwell, beyond typical COVID-19 symptoms.*

- SCCs must not admit children, staff and visitors who are unwell, and recommend that they promptly seek medical attention. Children who test negative via the ART or PCR may only return to SCC after they are well (i.e. no longer displaying symptoms). If their respiratory symptoms persist, they should return to the same doctor for follow-up assessment, including whether testing is required. SCC staff with flu-like symptoms (fever and/or cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath) are required to see a doctor and to produce a negative COVID-19 test result (ART or PCR) before being allowed to return to SCC after they are well (i.e. no longer displaying symptoms).

- During the day. SCCs should conduct another temperature taking and health check for both children and staff. i.e. total of two temperature taking/health checks while in the centre. The timing for these checks must be scheduled and not left to the discretion of individual staff.

SCCs should direct all staff who are unwell to leave immediately and promptly seek medical attention. SCCs should advise staff not to clinic-hop. Where possible, operators/ principals must ensure that each staff visits only one clinic for check-ups if unwell. Otherwise, staff should inform the clinic of all recent doctor visits over the past 14 days for any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19 (including but not limited to typical symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath).

Children who report feeling unwell should be immediately isolated in the sick bay, and their parents/ guardians should be notified to bring them home as soon as possible. There should be no more than one unwell child in each sick bay. If there is more than one unwell child in the sick bay, the children should be spaced 2 metres or more apart and be given masks to wear. If staff need to interact closely with the sick children (i.e. <2 metres from child), they should wear a mask and practise hand hygiene after contact with the child. The sick bay should be sanitised and wiped down frequently, especially after every use.

f. Contact tracing of staff, children and visitors

- All Student Care staff, children and visitors must use the Trace Together (TT) App on their mobile phones or TT token to check into SafeEntry¹ at SCCs.
- [IMPORTANT] All Student Care staff, children and visitors are to keep their TT App on mobile phones or TT tokens with them at all times.**
- All SCCs must deploy the SafeEntry Gateway devices. Please refer to the SafeEntry website (go.gov.sg/gateway-overview) for more details.

¹ SafeEntry records will reduce the time required by MOH to identify potential close contacts of COVID-19 patients and mitigate the risk of new waves of infection.

- ☑ SafeEntry is only necessary for visitors who enter the student care premises and does not apply to parents dropping off or picking up children, school bus drivers etc.

g. Travel Plans and Declarations

- ☑ **[IMPORTANT]** With the evolving COVID-19 situation, SCCs are to continue monitoring the travel plans of staff and children to all countries closely. SCCs should inform staff and parents to declare the following, if not already done:
 - i. Of any intended/ updated travel plans by staff or enrolled children to other countries (including the city(s) of travel). SCCs must require all visitors entering the SCC to fill in a travel declaration form;
 - ii. When an enrolled child or staff or any household member has tested positive for COVID-19 (either ART or PCR); and
 - iii. When an enrolled child or staff or any household member is issued with a (i) Health Risk Notice or (ii) Stay Home Notice

B. COVID-Safe Behaviour

SCCs are to implement the following to ensure that staff and children adopt COVID-Safe Behaviour and norms to reduce the risk of transmission and ensure a safe environment within each class/group.

a. Wearing of masks and shields in SCCs

- ☑ All SCC staff are to continue to wear disposable or reusable masks in the SCC. If there is close or prolonged contact between staff and children, they may wear both masks and face shields. Face shields alone (without mask) will not be allowed for staff even when conducting lessons and safe distancing can be ensured. Face masks must be used by all staff.
- ☑ SCCs are to educate staff and children on proper mask wearing/ removal and handling habits. Staff should wear a face mask that closely covers the nose and mouth (i.e. without leaving a gap between mask and face), particularly when attending to children in situations where safe distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. helping a child with homeworking or during toileting).
- ☑ The students are not required to wear a mask during their naps as it may not be safe to do so (e.g. risks of suffocation). However, the SCC should ensure the children's mattresses are spaced apart during nap times. Children should also be assigned their own mattresses and use mattress covers.
- ☑ There may be times during the day where it may not be practical or safe for children to wear masks/ face shields (e.g. during meals, nap time). As a precautionary measure, SCCs must position children further apart from one another (1 metre apart) when there are children without a mask or face shield. Where space constraints limit how far children can be seated apart, SCCs must use of desk shields /

Plexiglass barriers. If desk shields/ Plexiglass barriers are used, SCCs must ensure that they are wiped down and cleaned after every use.

- ☑ Face shields will be allowed only for specific exempt groups or settings. SCCs can exercise some flexibility in securing compliance for these groups. The groups which can wear face shields are as follows:
 - i. Children 12 years and below, who may have difficulty wearing and keeping face masks on for prolonged period of time; and
 - ii. Persons who have health conditions that may result in breathing or other medical difficulties when a mask is worn for a prolonged period of time,

b. Conduct only small group activities within each class/group

- ☑ Allocate children to fixed groups, with grouping in the following order of priority:
 - i. Same household**
 - ii. Classmates (in school of origin)**
 - iii. School mates (i.e. grouping by schools)**
 - iv. Students from other schools, where reasonably practicable to do so.**
- ☑ If children are grouped under (iv), reduce the number of schools in such mixed groupings, where possible. SCCs are to ensure that there is no mixing or combining of children across fixed groups.
- ☑ If splitting a larger class/group into smaller groups for programmes and activities, the adult to child ratio should not be more than 1:20, where reasonably practicable to do so.
- ☑ Within the small groups, staff are to speak softly. Everyone should keep their volume low. Actions such as speaking/singing loudly (like sneezing and coughing) increase expulsion of droplets that may contain viral particles and raise the risk of transmission of diseases like COVID-19.

c. Ensure safe distancing between children and staff within each class/group

Programmes/ activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Avoid programmes and activities that involve close physical contact among children and staff. Staff should avoid close physical contact with children e.g. hugs. ☑ Space out seating arrangements and ensure designated seat for each child. ☑ Arrange for children to queue 1m apart, where reasonably practicable to do so.
Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Children to have meals in their respective classrooms/bays. If meals have to be taken in a common dining space: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stagger meal times with no mixing of classes/groups.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Seat children as far apart as reasonably practicable. SCCs must use desk shields / Plexiglass barriers where space is more restricted. If desk shields/ Plexiglass barriers are used, ensure that they are wiped down and cleaned after every use. iii. Surfaces (e.g. tables, chairs or desk shields) to be wiped down cleaned before the commencement of meals for the next class/group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative and non-teaching staff should refrain from interacting with children, as far as possible. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff should not move to another bay to dine/collect lunch, where reasonably practicable to do so. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the process of delivering food, SCCs are to ensure contactless food delivery between bays, where reasonably practicable to do so.
Outdoor activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [Updated] From 26 November 2021, SCCs may carry out outdoor activities in public spaces in small groups of no more than 5 persons (including staff) from the same class/group. SCCs are encouraged to maintain safe distancing of 1 metre between groups. Staff-child ratios for outdoor activities must be met. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refrain from carrying out vigorous outdoor activities that involve close contact among children and staff during this period. Children should wear masks at all times. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classes going outdoors must be staggered. There should be no mixing between fixed groups when preparing to go out/return from outdoors. Keep classes separate when outdoors. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children should not be brought to crowded public spaces, which have high pedestrian traffic/ crowds. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff and children to practise hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities.
Routine care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arrange for children to queue 1m apart when going to the toilet, where reasonably practicable to do so. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limit showering to only on need-to basis (e.g. child has soiled himself or had skin disorder) to minimise use of common spaces. Rinse showers/contact areas carefully after showering each child before use by another child. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimise contact between children of different classes/groups during routine care, where reasonably practicable to do so.

d. No sharing of equipment

- SCCs are to minimise cross-sharing of equipment, materials and toys across classes/groups.
- Equipment should be assigned individually within the class/group, if reasonably practicable to do so, and to be wiped down and cleaned after each use.

e. Practise high levels of personal hygiene

All staff and children are to maintain good personal hygiene such as:

- Washing their hands immediately upon entering the SCC. Thereafter all children are to change from their school uniform to their student care uniform, or a fresh/clean set of home clothes. This requirement should be observed by all children, including those who arrive later at the SCC (e.g. due to after-school activities)
- Covering their mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing, and to throw away the tissue immediately into a foot bin.
- Washing their hands **at least every 2 hours** with soap, especially before eating or handling food, after toilet visits, or when hands are dirtied by respiratory secretions after coughing or sneezing.
- Not sharing food/ drinks, eating utensils, tooth brushes or towels with others.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth

f. Ensure high levels of environmental hygiene

SCCs are to step up cleaning of the SCC premises and ensure high levels of environmental hygiene which includes the following:

Housekeeping / Refuse Management	<p><u>Housekeeping</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assign a team of staff to carry out cleaning and housekeeping <u>daily</u>.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disinfect frequently touched points such as handrails and door knobs with disinfectant <u>at least twice a day</u>.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean and disinfect the tables, chairs, counter tops and shelves in the classrooms/bays, dining and activity areas with disinfectant <u>daily</u>.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean and disinfect communal toys, equipment or gadgets <u>daily</u>.<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wipe down and clean outdoor play equipment, especially high touch items, <u>between sessions / after each group</u>. Carry out regular cleaning/wash down of equipment.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Clean, wash and disinfect resources and materials <u>at least once a week</u>. ☑ Premises, furniture, furnishings and fittings should be well maintained and kept clean, free from mould and mildew. ☑ Outdoor space should be well maintained. ☑ Keep all rooms well-ventilated. Open windows to allow plenty of fresh air into the indoor environment, where possible. SCCs may consider installing high efficiency air filters in air handling units or use portable air cleaners for localised air cleaning. <p><u>Refuse management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Ensure bins are covered at all times and cleared <u>daily</u>. Tie refuse contained in plastic bags properly before disposal. ☑ Clean up any refuse spillage (e.g. vomitus) <u>immediately</u> with dedicated equipment. ☑ Engage licensed waste contractors to remove refuse <u>daily</u>. ☑ Ensure that cleaning equipment are disinfected properly using diluted household bleach prior to re-use. ☑ Dedicated equipment should be provided for cleaning toilets and should not be used to clean the rest of the SCC.
<p>Toilets and shower facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Disinfect frequently touched areas such as water taps, door/ towel holder/ cistern handles, seats and cover flaps, wash basins, door knobs, buttons and switches with disinfectant <u>twice daily</u>. ☑ Provide adequate supply of toilet paper, paper towels (if provided) or hand dryers and liquid soap at all times. ☑ Toilet fittings and fixtures should be free from grime, dirt and mould. ☑ Taps and flush system should be in good working condition at all times. ☑ Toilet floors should be cleaned and disinfected <u>twice daily</u>. ☑ Toilet floors should be clean and dry, and toilets should not have a bad odour. ☑ Toilets should be well ventilated. Keep toilet exhaust fans running at full capacity for longer operating hours to enhance ventilation

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All sanitary pipes and fittings should be in good working condition.
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g. Ensure good ventilation in SCC premises

To minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission for the health and wellbeing of all children and staff, SCCs must ensure that the indoor premises of the SCC are adequately ventilated. SCCs are advised to implement the following measures to improve ventilation of your premises:

<p>SCCs in air-conditioned premises with mechanical ventilation (ACMV) e.g. centralised air-conditioning system</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contact your building owner or facilities managers to ensure that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ventilation systems are adequate and in good working order. ○ Air Handling Unit (AHU) uses high-efficiency filters (at least MERV14 or F8 is recommended) to treat recirculated air. ○ They adhere to the recommended measures in the Guidance Note issued by BCA, NEA and MOH to enhance ventilation and air quality in indoor spaces, through the proper operations and maintenance of air-conditioning and mechanical ventilation (ACMV) systems. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase ventilation in premises with limited ventilation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open windows and doors as frequently as possible, unless outdoor/outside air quality is poor. ○ Consider positioning fans at windows to blow air outwards and increase air exchange. ○ Operate exhaust fans (e.g. in toilets, kitchens) at full capacity to expel air from indoor spaces. Keep windows and other openings (e.g. back door) around exhaust fans closed to avoid short-circuiting of air flow. ○ Consider using portable air purifiers for localised air cleaning as an interim measure where ventilation is limited. <p>Please note that <u>air cleaning does not replace the need for adequate ventilation</u>. Regular surface cleaning and disinfection should also continue, as portable air purifiers do not remove surface contamination.</p>
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SCCs in enclosed air-conditioned premises without mechanical ventilation (e.g. split-unit air-conditioners)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase ventilation and enhance air exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open operable windows and doors as frequently as possible, unless outdoor air quality is poor. ○ Operate exhaust fans (e.g. toilet, kitchen) at full capacity to expel air from the indoor space. Keep windows or other openings (e.g. back door) around exhaust fans closed to avoid short-circuiting of air flow. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider installing window-mounted exhaust fans to enhance ventilation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If installing window-mounted exhaust fans, SCCs should check with the supplier that the fan system provides the minimum air changes specified in Singapore Standards SS553.² ○ SCCs should also request that the contractor aligns the air supply and exhaust system to provide uni-directional airflow in a poorly ventilated space. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider using portable air purifiers for localised air cleaning in enclosed spaces as an interim measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Portable air purifiers should be equipped with high-efficiency air filters such as HEPA filters, which are effective at removing virus aerosols. ○ Ensure that the size and number of portable air purifiers are adequate for the space. SCCs can check with their supplier, if unsure. ○ If the portable air purifier has an ozone generation function, turn it off to avoid excessive exposure to ozone levels and by-products, which may be hazardous to health. <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Please note that <u>air cleaning does not replace the need for adequate ventilation</u>. Regular surface cleaning and disinfection should also continue, as portable air purifiers do not remove surface contamination.</p>
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² Singapore Standard SS553: Code of Practice for Air Conditioning and Mechanical Ventilation in Buildings.

<p>SCCs located in naturally ventilated premises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase natural ventilation with fans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep windows and/or doors open at all times, unless outdoor air quality is poor or the weather condition does not allow. ○ Position fans at windows to blow air outwards and increase air exchange. ○ Operate exhaust fans (e.g. toilet, kitchen) at full capacity to expel air from the indoor space. Keep windows or other openings (e.g. back door) around exhaust fans closed to avoid short-circuiting of air flow. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider installing window-mounted exhaust fans to enhance ventilation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If installing window-mounted exhaust fans, SCCs should check with the supplier that the fan system provides the minimum air changes specified in SS553. ○ SCCs should also request that the contractor aligns the air supply and exhaust system to provide uni-directional airflow in a poorly ventilated space.

C. COVID-Safe Classrooms/Bays

To ensure COVID-Safe Classrooms/Bays, it is critical that children and staff stay within a fixed group and designated spaces to minimise any risk of cross-transmission across classes/groups, in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the SCC.

SCCs are to implement the following measures to ensure **minimal interaction/ mixing between children and staff from different classes.**

a. Safe distancing between classes/groups during drop off/ pick up times

- ☑ **[Updated]** Children are to proceed directly into SCC on arrival. Do not combine classes/groups during arrival and departure periods. If children need to be located in a combined space, children of the same class/group are encouraged to be assigned a specific zone within the area at least 1m apart from other class/group and children from different classes/groups should preferably be in the same space for less than 30 minutes. There should be no mixing of children from different bays/ floors/ classes.
- ☑ Children from different classes/groups to use separate routes and entrances/exits, where available.
- ☑ Where SCC engages bus services:
 - i. The ferried children must be going to only one SCC unless they are from the same school. Children from different schools and SCCs should not mix. If this arrangement is not feasible, the bus operator should assign seats to students based on their SCC e.g. children going to Centre A to be allocated seats in the front rows, whereas those in Centre B assigned to seats in the rows behind.
 - ii. Take children's temperatures prior to boarding.
 - iii. Assign specific seat to each child.
 - iv. Ensure each child wears a mask.
 - v. **[Updated]** Alternate seating for all children (previously 1 metre social distancing was required), where reasonably practicable to do so.
 - vi. Strongly encourage children to refrain from talking on the bus.
 - vii. Ensure that the bus is cleaned and sanitised before children's use every time.
- ☑ SCCs must engage parents to put in place staggered drop-off and pick-up times for classes/groups to prevent the formation of queues and crowding at SCCs. To facilitate this, SCCs have the flexibility to make adjustments to existing timetables.
- ☑ **[Updated]** SCCs to demarcate queues; parents/guardians are encouraged to stand 1 m apart. SCCs are to inform parents to not mingle with one another after pick-up, and to not engage in long conversations with staff. Parents can dialogue with staff via telephone / emails.

b. Segregate children/ staff by bays/ floors/ classes during the day

- ☑ Keep children within their own bays/floors/classes. Ensure there is no mixing of children from different bays/ floors/classes. Consider 'soft barriers' or markers to help with demarcation.
- ☑ Ensure that children do not interact with children from different classes/groups along walkways, corridors or common spaces, where reasonably practicable to do so.
- ☑ Stagger classes in their use of common areas and facilities (e.g. toilets, halls, common areas) to avoid mixing between classes, with scheduled cleaning in between use as far as possible.

c. Staff deployment

- ☑ From 31 January 2022, staff may be deployed flexibly within the SCC to deliver core programmes as well as manage staff absenteeism (e.g. staff affected by COVID-19, on MC, etc), where needed. Such deployment should be done only where necessary.
- ☑ Staff must not be cross deployed across SCCs. The only exception is for Mother Tongue Language (MTL) teachers, where it is recognised that manpower may be very tight. MTL teachers may therefore be deployed across SCCs, if necessary, but they must engage children strictly within their existing classes/fixed groups. Teachers are not allowed to combine children from different classes for each MTL session.
- ☑ Fully vaccinated relief or auxiliary staff may serve in multiple SCCs.
- ☑ Non-teaching staff, e.g. cleaners and administrative staff need to refrain from interacting with children, where reasonably practicable to do so. For example, cleaners to clean classrooms/bays when the children are not present.

d. Suspend large group activities

- ☑ Suspend large group and communal activities e.g. assemblies.
- ☑ Suspend excursions and field trips that expose children to large crowds

e. Celebration of special events such as birthdays, National Day

- ☑ SCCs may conduct celebrations (e.g. birthdays, National Day) only at class level/fixed groups, and must ensure that the following safe management measures are adhered to:
 - Children must remain within their respective classes/ groups; there must be no mixing of classes/groups.
 - Staff and children are to wear masks during the celebration.
 - There must be safe distancing among staff and children at all times.
 - Classes should minimise actions such as singing loudly as they increase expulsion of droplets that may contain viral particles and raise the risk of

transmission of diseases like COVID-19. Children and staff must also avoid sharing a microphone.

- External visitors remain disallowed (e.g. parents must not be invited to attend the celebration).
- If there are birthday cakes, there must be no blowing of candles.

f. Staff meetings, training, practicum

- ☑ Internal staff meeting, and training should be conducted virtually.
- ☑ **Face-to-face training of the hands-on aspect of Child First Aid (CFA) training may continue.** This is only applicable to SCCs which need to send staff for training to meet the minimum requirement of staff with CFA. The theory aspect of the CFA course must continue to be delivered online. Face-to-face CFA training sessions are limited to no more than 5 persons per session and are subjected to existing safe management measures such as the need to maintain 1-metre safe distancing, wearing of masks at all times and wiping down and disinfection of high touch-points and first aid equipment. Such face-to-face CFA training sessions should be conducted at the premises of the training providers.
- ☑ **All other external training will continue to be carried out virtually until further notice.** Where online delivery of classes is not immediately possible, the classes will be rescheduled until adjustments are made for them to be delivered online, or to a later date altogether.
- ☑ Practicum and internship supervisors may conduct face-to-face supervision of practicum students and interns in up to 4 centres per day. **They will no longer be required to show evidence of a negative test result before entering the SCC.**

g. Social gatherings between staff

- ☑ **[Updated information in bold]** From 15 March 2022, social gatherings for SCC staff will be permitted within the SCC, in a group of up to 5 persons. There should be **no social gatherings of staff across SCCs.**
- ☑ Staff should minimise socialising or congregating in groups at common areas, such as staff lounge and pantry, including during meals or breaks.
- ☑ There should be no cross-deployment (with the exception of MTL teachers) or interaction between employees in different SCCs, even outside of work.

Health protocols for SCC staff/ children

	If SCC staff/child ...	If SCC staff/child's household member(s) ...
Protocol 1: Is unwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child should see a doctor for medical advice. <p><u>For high-risk individuals (e.g. elderly, pregnant, under 5 years old, etc) or those with severe significant symptoms (e.g. chest pain, shortness of breath, prolonged fever, etc)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual will undergo both ART and PCR. • If tested positive, the individual will be isolated for (a) 7 days if fully vaccinated (or children aged 12 years or less); or (b) 14 days if unvaccinated. • The individual will be discharged after the isolation period without the need for further tests at the point of discharge; May return to SCC, if well. <p><u>For low-risk individuals with mild symptoms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary care doctor will administer ART. • If positive, refer to Protocol 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC (during household member's isolation period) if he/she tests ART negative each day before entering the SCC. Staff/ child is to produce daily evidence (e.g. present a time-stamped photo of the dated ART result). • Notwithstanding this, we encourage parents to keep their children at home during the period if they can. • Children unable to take the ART may only return to SCC after the household member's isolation period.
Protocol 2: Is well and tested positive, or condition assessed to be mild by a doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child to self-isolate at home for at least 72 hours³. • After 72 hours, he/she may return to SCC if second ART is negative and individual is well. • Those who continue to test ART positive to continue to self-isolate and self-test daily until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they obtain a negative ART result; <u>OR</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC (during household member's isolation period) if he/she tests ART negative each day before entering the SCC. Staff/ child is to produce daily evidence (e.g. present a time-stamped photo of the dated ART result). • Notwithstanding this, we encourage parents to keep their children at home during the period if they can.

³ MOH recommends the following individuals who test positive to see a doctor even if they are feeling well: a. Fully vaccinated and aged 70 years and above; b. Unvaccinated/partially vaccinated and aged 50 years and above; c. Aged 5 years and below; d. Had an organ transplant surgery in the past; e. Have any disease or are taking any medication that weakens the immune system; f. Have been diagnosed with cancer (including blood cancers) before; g. Are on dialysis; h. Are diagnosed with HIV or AIDS; i. Have a disease affecting your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, or brain that required hospital admission in the last 6 months; j. Are pregnant; k. Are less than 12 years old and have any congenital condition or growth disorder that affects the heart, lungs or brain; or l. Are less than 12 years old and have Diabetes Mellitus or hypertension.

	If SCC staff/child ...	If SCC staff/child's household member(s) ...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Day 7 (for vaccinated individuals and children below 12 years old) or Day 14 (if unvaccinated/partially vaccinated and aged 12 and above) • No medical certificate will be issued by a doctor if the individual has no symptoms. If the doctor assesses that there is a mild condition, the individual will be issued an MC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children unable to take the ART may only return to SCC after the household member's isolation period.
<p>[Updated] Protocol 3:</p> <p>If identified as a close contact of an infected person</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child will be issued a 5-day Health Risk Notice (HRN) • The staff/child may return to SCC provided he/she tests ART negative each day before entering the SCC. Staff/parents are to produce daily evidence (e.g. present a time-stamped photo of the dated ART result). • Notwithstanding, we encourage parents to keep their children at home during the period if they can. • Children unable to take the ART will return to the SCC after 5 days from the last day of exposure to the confirmed case. • No further tests needed if the individual tests negative on Day 5. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Updated] Staff/child may continue to attend SCC. • SCCs are to be more vigilant in their health checks (including checks on health of family members) and safe distancing.
<p>Is unwell and tests negative for COVID-19 <i>(with fever and/ or flu-like symptoms such as cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC only when medical leave period is over, and fully recovered (i.e. no longer displaying symptoms). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC when the unwell household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result (either PCR or ART test). Staff/ child is to produce evidence of household member's negative test result (e.g. present a time-stamped photo of the dated ART result).
<p>Issued with SHN in line with ICA's prevailing requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may return to SCC after the SHN duration has ended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff/child may attend SCC so long as household member tests ART negative each day. • SCCs are to be more vigilant in their health checks (including checks on health of family members) and safe distancing.