

## MSF 132-007-356A-2

4 October 2021

Dear Student Care Operators,

### Transition Towards COVID Resilience: Enhanced COVID-19 Testing Regime in Student Care Centres (SCCs)

We had earlier informed SCCs that from 1 October 2021, all staff working in SCCs must undergo the COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test (ART) on a regular basis under the Fast and Easy Test (FET) and “Vaccinate or Regular Test” (VoRT) regimes. **School-based SCCs are to refer to the advisories issued by MOE and/or school administration for more details.** These ART tests will be administered through Employer Supervised Self-Swab (ESSS), which involves these staff using ART kits to administer swabs on themselves under the supervision of a trained supervisor.

Staff	Frequency of ART
All vaccinated <sup>1</sup> staff (including vaccinated cleaners)	Once a week (i.e. 7-day cycle)
All unvaccinated staff (including unvaccinated cleaners and medically ineligible)	Twice a week

#### **Fast and Easy (FET) Regime**

2. MOH requires enterprises under the FET regime to ensure that their employees<sup>2</sup> and persons who work under their direction<sup>3</sup> undergo regular FET without fail. It is also mandatory for MSF (as the sector lead for student care sector) to undertake audits to make certain the FET regime is implemented as required.

3. Under the FET regime, SCCs are required to ensure that their employees and persons who work under their direction (e.g. contractors, subcontractors and volunteers) undergo regular FET using the ART, regardless of their vaccination status. MSF, as the sector lead, will commence audits on the FET regime for community-based SCCs from **1 October onwards**. *[Your respective Student Care Officers will contact you with further details].* Some centres have received the one-month supply of ART kits. MSF is working closely with the vendors to deliver ART kits to the remaining Student Care Centres. Centres which have not received the ART kits may start the testing regime the **next working day after receiving the kits**.

4. Please note that all SCCs must comply with the mandatory requirements set out in the attached **FET Notice** (see **Annex A**).

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of the testing regime, the individual is considered vaccinated if he has (i) received the appropriate regimen of any approved vaccine and an additional 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated. The vaccines are limited to: (1) Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine); (2) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; (3) Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine); (4) Covishield COVID-19 vaccine; (5) Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine; (6) Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine; (7) Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine; or (8) any other vaccine regimen as approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Where the individual is vaccinated under (3) to (8), their vaccination records must have been ingested into MOH's national IT systems before they will be recognised; or (ii) recovered from COVID-19 based on a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result obtained in Singapore and has taken one dose of Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna, with an additional 2 weeks for the vaccine to be effective; or (iii) recovered from COVID-19 i.e. less than 270 days of first positive PCR test result obtained in Singapore.

<sup>2</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns

<sup>3</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners, supplementary programme providers, bus drivers), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included.

5. To support SCCs, the costs for the ART test kits that will be used for ESSS and the training required for ESSS will be borne by the Government until 31 December 2021.

### **“Vaccinate or Regular Test” (VoRT) Regime**

6. To expand our vaccine coverage further and to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, all settings with children 12 years and below are required to implement the Vaccinate or Regular Test (“VoRT”) regime with effect from 1 October 2021.

7. Under the VoRT regime, SCCs must ensure that all their employees<sup>4</sup> and persons who work under their direction<sup>5</sup> (e.g. contractors, subcontractors and volunteers) are “Fully Vaccinated” or undergo COVID-19 testing twice a week if they are not.

8. Please refer to the attached **VoRT Notice** (see **Annex B**) for more details on the obligations of SCCs that are required to implement the VoRT regime.

9. To support SCCs, the Government will bear the costs of training required by supervisors through 31 December 2021.

10. The Government will also give further support for SCCs that conduct ESSS by providing ART test kits for persons who have been certified by a medical practitioner in Singapore as medically ineligible to receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines and are still required to undergo testing twice a week under the VoRT regime (“Medically Ineligible Worker(s)” or “MIW(s)”). SCCs should verify a person’s status as a MIW by checking against the original certification or memo that was issued to that person by a medical practitioner in Singapore or the SMS notification sent to that person. The Government’s provision of ART test kits for these MIWs will continue through 31 December 2021. For avoidance of doubt, all other persons who are not Fully Vaccinated are ineligible for these Government-provided ART test kits, and SCCs should make arrangements to comply with the requirements set out in the VoRT Notice.

11. The costs for the services and ART test kits that will be used at the Quick Test Centres will also be borne by the Government for MIWs through 31 December 2021.

### **Approach for AG+ cases**

12. Any revised guidelines for handling AG+ cases among staff for SCCs will be circulated separately when it is available.

13. To place an order for ART test kits, SCCs should submit the relevant information to respective MSF Coordinators. SCCs that carry out their businesses across multiple programmes or services should submit a separate order for each premise<sup>6</sup>.

14. The FET and VoRT regimes and the mandatory requirements set out in the attached notices are imposed on SCCs under the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020. **Failure to comply with the requirements set out herein may result in prosecution and/or other enforcement action.**

---

<sup>4</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns

<sup>5</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners, supplementary programme providers, bus drivers), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included.

<sup>6</sup> For SCCs with multiple centres or facilities under the same UEN, you may submit your request to create multiple SRS company accounts under the same UEN. However, there must be a unique mobile number and email address used for each account. SCCs without a UEN can indicate their NRIC in the UEN field instead.

15. Do note that SCCs must not distribute, supply or sell the ART test kits provided by the Government to any third party.

16. Please refer to **Annex C** for FAQs related to the FET and VoRT regimes.

### **Support from SCCs**

17. The fight against COVID-19 requires the collective effort of everyone in the community. We seek the support and understanding of all SCCs during this period. We will continue to review and adjust the measures in line with the national posture for the health and well-being of the public and employees.

18. We thank you for your continued support to keep our SCCs safe for the staff, children and their families. For more details on the enhanced testing regimes, please contact your MSF Coordinators. School-based SCCs are to refer to the advisories issued by MOE and/or school administration for more details.

Yours faithfully

Denise Low (Ms)  
Director  
Service Delivery and Coordination Division (SDCD)  
Ministry of Social and Family Development

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of the testing regime, the individual is considered vaccinated if he has (i) received the appropriate regimen of any approved vaccine and an additional 14 days or more have elapsed after the day the individual was so vaccinated. The vaccines are limited to: (1) Tozinameran (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine); (2) Moderna COVID-19 vaccine; (3) Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine); (4) Covishield COVID-19 vaccine; (5) Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine; (6) Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine; (7) Sinovac-CoronaVac COVID-19 vaccine; or (8) any other vaccine regimen as approved by the Ministry of Health (MOH). Where the individual is vaccinated under (3) to (8), their vaccination records must have been ingested into MOH's national IT systems before they will be recognised; or (ii) recovered from COVID-19 based on a positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result obtained in Singapore and has taken one dose of Pfizer-BioNTech/Comirnaty or Moderna, with an additional 2 weeks for the vaccine to be effective; or (iii) recovered from COVID-19 i.e. less than 270 days of first positive PCR test result obtained in Singapore.

<sup>2</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns

<sup>3</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners, supplementary programme providers, bus drivers), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included.

<sup>4</sup> This includes both full and part time employees, as well as interns

<sup>5</sup> This includes contractors (e.g. cleaners, supplementary programme providers, bus drivers), subcontractors, employees of contractors and subcontractors who work at the workplace. Volunteers are also included.

<sup>6</sup> For SCCs with multiple centres or facilities under the same UEN, you may submit your request to create multiple SRS company accounts under the same UEN. However, there must be a unique mobile number and email address used for each account. SCCs without a UEN can indicate their NRIC in the UEN field instead.