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Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

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SAFE RESUMPTION OF PRIVATE TUITION AND ENRICHMENT FROM 28 DEC 2020

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced on 14 Dec 2020 that Phase Three of re-opening would start from 28 Dec 2020. Private tuition and enrichment classes were allowed to resume in Phase Two.

[Updated 29 Dec 20] Resumption of Private Tuition and Enrichment

2. Since 19 Jun 2020, private tuition and enrichment providers have been allowed to resume face-to-face operations in private residences as well as centre premises, save for some activities with higher risk of virus transmission. Resumption of tuition and enrichment classes is subject to safe management measures (see next section).
3. Singing, voice training, speech and drama, and wind and brass instrument (or other instruments that require intentional expulsion of air) classes have been allowed to resume from 3 Aug 2020, subject to compliance to the measures in Para 9.
4. Private tuition and enrichment providers have been allowed to hold year-end concerts or other indoor live performances from 1 Nov 2020, subject to compliance to the measures in Paras 10 and 11.
5. Tuition and enrichment centres do not need to apply for a business exemption before resuming operations. However, centres are required to submit the number of workers who are working on-site via the GoBusiness portal (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>) within two weeks of the date of on-site operations. To reduce physical contact between individuals, telecommuting and online lessons should continue to remain the default arrangement where feasible.

Safe Management Measures in Tuition and Enrichment Centres¹

6. To reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19, tuition and enrichment centres are required to abide by the nationwide safe management measures for workplaces issued on 9 May 2020. These include health checks, the use of SafeEntry to support contact tracing for all employees and students (please refer to Para 12), wearing of masks and regular cleaning of common

¹ Private tuition and enrichment in private residences will be subject to prevailing measures for home-based services.

facilities and high-touch areas. Details are available at the GoBusiness website (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/general/>).

7. As a default, tuition and enrichment centres that provide classes are expected to observe the following measures in classrooms and other areas accessed by students:

a. **Safe distancing.** Safe distancing measures for tuition and enrichment are:

- i. **Students:** Centres must ensure safe distancing between students by putting up appropriate floor demarcations and/or physical barriers, e.g. using safety tape. There must also be strict separation between students in different classrooms at all times, with no intermingling.
 - I. As a default, centres must ensure that students maintain safe distancing of at least 1m at all times, with strictly no physical interaction between students.
 - II. **[Updated 29 Dec 20]** If it is not possible to apply 1m safe distancing between students and some interaction is unavoidable, centres may instead organise students into groups of no more than 8 students, with strictly no physical interaction or intermingling between different groups. Centres must strictly maintain a minimum of 1m spacing between groups, although MOE advises 2m spacing between groups as a best practice.
- ii. **Tutors/instructors:** They are allowed to move between groups. However, contact should be transient and they should remain at the front of the class as much as is practicable.
- iii. **[Updated 29 Dec 20] Capacity:** Except for indoor live performances which may be conducted with up to five zones of 50 audience members (see Para 10), no single room within a centre should hold more than 50 persons, including tutors/instructors, even as the above measures are adopted.

b. **[Updated 29 Dec 20] Health declarations.** Private tuition and enrichment centres should not permit students who are placed on Leave of Absence (LOA) or Approved Absence (AA) by their schools, or students who are on a Stay Home Notice (SHN), or Home Quarantine Order (HQO) to attend lessons. In alignment with practices in MOE schools, we also advise centres to watch out for students with fever or respiratory symptoms, such as sneezing, breathlessness, runny nose, loss of smell, cough, or sore throat. Students with visible symptoms of the above should be sent home, rather than allowed to attend lessons. As a best practice, they should also check if a family member living in the same household is unwell. If so, the child should not attend lessons in person.

c. **Disinfection of surfaces.** All surfaces in classrooms must be thoroughly disinfected between classes. Sharing of all equipment (e.g. props, music scores and microphones)

should be avoided as far as possible. If this cannot be done, the equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and/or disinfected before being handled or used by others. However, please note that sharing of wind/brass instruments or parts thereof (e.g. mouthpieces, reeds) is not allowed. (See Para 9 for further measures for Singing, Voice Training, Speech and Drama, Wind/Brass Instrument Classes.)

- d. **Masks must be worn as a default at all times**, except for persons allowed to use face shields instead of masks (e.g. instructors/teachers who remain at the spot from which they are speaking and are able to maintain a safe distance of at least 1m away from others, and persons with health conditions resulting in breathing/medical difficulties when a mask is worn for a prolonged period). Children aged between 2 and 6 years of age should continue to wear masks/face shields when attending tuition and enrichment classes, as they are still in a group setting and may interact with others. However, centres may exercise some flexibility in requiring compliance from children who have difficulties wearing masks/face shields, e.g. those with special needs.
- e. **Class timings.** Centres should allocate at least 15 minutes between classes. This is to allow adequate time to disinfect classroom surfaces, and to ensure strict separation of individuals from different classes. Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up children promptly to avoid students lingering in waiting areas.

Sports and Dance Classes

8. As some classes may involve more high movement activities, the following additional safe management measures apply:

- a. Masks may only be removed when performing strenuous activities, although it is still recommended as good practice even under such circumstances.
- b. Participants should maintain at least 2m safe distancing from others, and try to minimise physical contact as much as possible.
- c. There should be a minimum of 3m spacing between each group, if more than one group is using the same venue.

Singing, Voice Training, Speech and Drama, Wind/Brass Instrument Classes

9. As some classes involve a higher risk of virus transmission due to voice projection or intentional expulsion of air, the following additional safe management measures apply:

- a. **[Updated 29 Dec 20]** Group sizes are limited to eight participants (excluding one instructor), except for singing classes which are limited to one participant (excluding one instructor). No more than one group is permitted in the same room.

- b. Masks must continue to be worn as a default, unless when unmasking is necessary for the activity. If possible, face shields should be worn even when unmasked.
- c. Participants should maintain at least 2m safe distancing from others at all times and refrain from positioning themselves directly opposite each other. For **singing classes**, participants should sing away from each other. If they cannot do so, they should maintain more than 2m safe distancing from each other.
- d. For **wind/brass instrument classes**,
 - i. Instructors should continue to wear masks when singing or humming a passage of music to demonstrate how it should sound when played on the instrument.
 - ii. Participants should play on wind instruments which are fully intact, and refrain from training practices involving only parts of the instrument (e.g. mouthpiece buzzing, playing with just the lead pipe) to prevent droplet transmission.
 - iii. Sharing of music instruments or parts thereof (e.g. mouthpieces, reeds) is not allowed.
 - iv. Liquids from instruments (i.e. condensation and saliva) must be collected and disposed of hygienically.

Indoor Live Performances

10. From 1 Nov 2020, tuition and enrichment centres may resume indoor live performances (e.g. music concerts or drama performances) with MOE's approval, subject to the safe management measures to ensure safety of performers, crews, and audiences outlined in the National Arts Council's Advisory, available at <https://www.nac.gov.sg/whatwedo/support/sustaining-the-arts-during-covid-19/Arts-and-Culture-Sector-Advisories.html#ResumptionofLivePerformances>. These include:

- a. **[Updated 29 Dec 20]** Restricting audience size to a maximum of 250 persons, grouped into five zones of no more than 50 persons each, in adherence with the prevailing zoning requirements, and subject to the venue capacity and safe distancing requirements.
- b. **[Updated 29 Dec 20]** Audiences are to comprise no more than 8 persons per group, in line with national guidelines on group size. There should be no physical interaction or mixing between groups.
- c. **[Updated 29 Dec 20]** Adopt seating arrangements to ensure 1m safe distance between groups of up to 8 all around.
- d. Audiences are to remain static and not move around the venue during the performance.

- e. A safe distance of 3m is to be maintained between audiences and performers at all times.
- f. A maximum of 30 performers and crew are allowed on stage and backstage at any given time.
 - i. A maximum of 10 performers can be unmasked at any given time.
 - ii. Of the 10 unmasked performers, there can be a maximum of 5 singers at any given time.

11. Tuition and enrichment centres who wish to apply to host an indoor live performance can submit an application to moe_pss@moe.gov.sg with the following details, at least three weeks in advance of the proposed event date:

- a. Date of event;
- b. Purpose of event;
- c. Total number of performers and crew participating in live performance;
- d. Total number of on-site audience; and
- e. Proposed safe management measures.

[Updated 29 Dec 20] SafeEntry and TraceTogether Programme

12. On 20 Oct 2020, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced that TraceTogether-only SafeEntry (TT-only SafeEntry) will be progressively expanded to more venues in order to facilitate safer resumption of larger-scale activities and further reopening of our economy. The use of TT-only SafeEntry will facilitate more effective contact tracing. TT tokens may be collected at designated collection points (please refer to <https://token.gowhere.gov.sg> for more information).

13. When TT-only SafeEntry is mandated (date to be confirmed by the MTF), entry to tuition and enrichment centre premises by all visitors will be allowed only if the individual uses their TT App to scan the centre's QR code or presents the QR code on the TT token to be scanned.

14. In the meantime, tuition and enrichment centres must still be able to check in all visitors (including students and staff) with TT tokens with immediate effect, on top of existing check-in modes. Business may refer to the SafeEntry User Guide for requirements on how to scan the TT tokens, available at <https://www.safeentry.gov.sg> (please navigate to Resources > User Guide > SafeEntry NRIC User Guide for Business).

15. Updates may also be found at <https://www.smartnation.gov.sg/whats-new/press-releases>.

Inspections

16. Tuition and enrichment centres will be responsible for ensuring that safe management measures are implemented before the resumption of face-to-face operations. To ensure compliance, inspectors from MOE will conduct checks on tuition and enrichment centres. All centres are reminded that non-compliance with safe management measures is an offence under the COVID-19 Control Order (Regulations).

Updates and Clarifications

17. There will be regular review of measures and requirements as the COVID-19 situation evolves. For updates, please refer to the GoBusiness website (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/>).

18. For FAQs, please refer to the MOE website (<https://moe.gov.sg/faqs-covid-19-infection>). You may also contact MOE at <https://www.moe.gov.sg/contact>.