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Ministry of Education SINGAPORE

4 Aug 2020

SAFE RESUMPTION OF PRIVATE TUITION AND ENRICHMENT FROM 19 JUN 2020

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced on 15 Jun 2020 that Phase Two of the post-Circuit Breaker period would start after 18 Jun 2020, 2359 hours. Private tuition and enrichment classes were allowed to resume in Phase Two.

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. **[Updated on 4 Aug 20] Singing, voice training, speech and drama, and wind and brass instrument (or other instruments that require intentional expulsion of air) classes may resume from 3 Aug 2020, subject to compliance to the measures in Para 8.**

4. 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

5. 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, wearing of masks and regular cleaning of common facilities and high-touch areas. Details are available at the GoBusiness website (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/general/>).

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

6. 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. 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 5 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. **Capacity:** Additionally, no single room within a centre should hold more than 50 persons, including tutors/instructors, even as the above measures are adopted.

b. **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.

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 8 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).
- e. **Class timings.** Centres should allocate at least 30 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

7. 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/class, if more than one group/class is using the same venue.

[Updated on 4 Aug 20] Singing, Voice Training, Speech and Drama, Wind/Brass Instrument Classes

8. 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. Group sizes are limited to five 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.

Inspections

9. 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

10. 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/>).

11. 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>.