

NEA-MFPD-ECD-SE-ADV-CIR-21-00010

Dear Funeral Directors and Funeral Parlour Operators,

### **Reversion to Safe Management Measures for Phase 2 (Heightened Alert)**

In response to growing COVID-19 clusters detected at KTV lounges or nightclubs that had pivoted as Food & Beverage (F&B) establishments, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) had earlier announced a tightening of community measures under Phase 3 (Heightened Alert) from **19 July 2021**. Since then, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has uncovered more emerging clusters and the number of community linked and unlinked cases has continued to escalate. On 20 July 2021, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced the need to further tightening community safe management measures by going back to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert). The following measures will take effect from Thursday, **22 July 2021** through 18 August 2021. For more information, please visit the MOH website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/going-back-to-phase-2-heightened-alert>.

#### Reduction in Permissible Group Size

2. The current permissible group size will be reduced from a maximum of 5 persons to **maximum of 2 persons**. Tables and chairs must be arranged such that each table can accommodate not more than 2 individuals seated at the table or not more than 2 individuals in each group separated by a space of at least one metre.

#### Reminder that live singing and playing of wind instruments not allowed

3. Funeral directors are reminded that live singing and playing of wind instruments (instruments which require intentional expulsion of air) are not allowed.

#### Antigen Rapid Test (ART) Self-Test Kits

4. To minimise the likelihood of large cluster formations, we seek everyone's cooperation to adhere to the safe management measures, stay vigilant and adopt good personal hygiene practices. If you are unwell, see a doctor and get tested. We strongly encourage funeral staff to administer self-testing regime with Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits available for purchase over counter retail counters. It is a quick screening tool to pick up any possible infection early.

5. Funeral directors can also share with the bereaved family that they can perform self-testing using the Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits for individuals who are worried that they may have COVID-19 and want to put their mind at ease. For more information on ART Self-Test Kits, you may visit <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/selftestart>.

6. The requirements in the Annex are for your compliance and you are encouraged to also keep abreast and closely monitor the developments and related advisories in the MOH website at [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg).

7. This is a generic email account, for any further enquiry, you may use the feedback form available in MyEnv Mobile application or via the NEA website at <http://www.nea.gov.sg/feedback>.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Tan Chia Wen  
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## **Annex – Safe Management Measures at Funeral Events [As at 22 Jul 2021]**

- a. Attendees at wakes and funerals including foot processions, shall be kept to 20 persons or fewer at any one time, depending on the safe capacity of the venue, whichever is lower. Pre-event testing is not required.
- b. Burials and cremations shall be attended by not more than 20 persons in total. NEA will issue 20 entry passes for each cremation or burial application at the government-managed facilities.
- c. Religious workers, funeral staff and persons involved in the conduct of live instrumental music should be kept to a minimum.
- d. All attendees at funeral wakes, foot processions, burials and cremations must wear a mask. The prevailing group size of no more than 2 persons applies and there should not be mixing between groups. Please ensure that a safe distance of at least one metre is maintained between individuals and/or groups.
- e. Where seating at a table is provided, every chair for each table must be placed at least one metre away from any other chair for another table at all times. Tables and chairs must be arranged such that each table can accommodate not more than 2 individuals seated at the table or not more than 2 individuals in each group separated by a space of at least one metre. There should be no mixing between groups.
- f. Attendees of funeral events should minimize their interaction with fellow attendees and leave the premises immediately after the event. No buffet set-up or reception with food and drinks is allowed. **From 19 July 2021**, provision of individually packed drinks (i.e. bottled/packet drink) or individually packed titbits (e.g. peanuts, melon seeds) is disallowed at funeral wakes.
- g. Individually packed food/drink (e.g. bento boxes) may be supplied to family members of the deceased who keep vigil for the duration of the funeral wake, and need to consume food at the premises. However, they should not interact with the other attendees when consuming their meals, and should consume their meals away from guests present at the funeral/wake event.
- h. Live instrumental music (non-wind) will be allowed at funeral events. The persons involved in the conduct of live instrumental music must wear a mask at all times and should minimise movement to ensure that the one metre safe distance can be adhered to at all times. They are not to participate in the foot procession. No other performances (e.g. singing, dance, variety act) are allowed and there should be no sharing of equipment (e.g. musical instruments, microphones, props). Live singing and playing of wind instruments (instruments which require intentional expulsion of air, e.g. trumpets, conch shell) are not allowed.
- i. Hearse escort party, i.e. musical band and/or display contingent on foot and including vehicles ferrying banners/blanket/flowers, is not allowed during the funeral event.
- j. Religious workers involved in the conduct of the religious rites (e.g. preachers, prayer leader, scripture reader), will be required to wear face mask when performing their speaking duties (i.e. preach, chanting of prayers) at funeral wakes and funeral services (i.e. cremation or burial services). They should largely remain at the spot from which they are speaking and must be at least one metre away from any other individual. Use of face shields in place of face mask is no longer allowed.
- k. Temperature screening is required for every individual entering the funeral event space and any person who is unwell must be turned away.

- i. SafeEntry check-in is required for funeral events and funeral parlours with wake halls. From 17 May 2021, TraceTogether-only SafeEntry (TT-only SE) check-in will be required for funeral parlours with wake halls and also funeral events. Visitors must perform TT-only SE check-in, via TraceTogether app or TraceTogether token to enable or facilitate contact tracing.
- m. From 19 April 2021, funeral parlours with wake halls are required to deploy SafeEntry Gateway as an additional SafeEntry check-in method. The SafeEntry Gateway enables contactless detection of both the TraceTogether App and Token, and serves as an additional means of SE check-in that is quicker and more seamless.
- n. Discourage vulnerable persons, such as the elderly, from attending these events to protect their health and consider alternative solutions for them, such as live video screening instead.
- o. Funeral staff is strongly encouraged to administer self-testing regime using the Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits available for purchase over retail counters. Family members may also consider to perform self-testing if they are worried that they may have COVID-19 and want to put their mind at ease. For more information on ART self-test kits, please visit <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/selftestart>.