

NEA-MFPD-ECD-SE-ADV-CIR-21-00013

Dear Funeral Directors and Funeral Parlour Operators,

Safe Management Measures for Stabilisation Phase

The Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) has announced on 24 September 2021 to tighten community safe management measures in order to slow down community transmissions and allow for better stability, so as to minimise the strain on our overall healthcare capacity. The following measures will take effect **from 27 September 2021 through 24 October 2021**. MTF will review the measures two weeks after implementation and adjust them based on the community situation then. For more information, please visit the MOH website at https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/stabilising-our-covid-19-situation-and-protecting-our-overall-healthcare-capacity_24September2021.

No change in number of attendees at funeral events

2. The cap for attendees applicable to **all days of the funeral will remain unchanged; to be kept to 30 persons or less from 27 September 2021 through 24 October 2021**. Attendees are reminded to maintain safe distancing and keep masks on at all times to reduce the risk of transmission.

Reduction in Permissible Group Size

3. The current permissible group size will, however, 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.

Routine ART Testing

4. We urge funeral staff to administer self-testing regime with Antigen Rapid Test (ART). Regular testing is key to early detection of possible COVID-19 infection and allows individuals who test positive to take precautions to self-isolate and protect their family, friends, and colleagues in workplace.

5. Companies with employees that work onsite and are not already subject to mandatory Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) are strongly advised to apply for 8 ART kits per onsite employee for weekly testing of their staff over a two-month period as previously informed. Applications are open until 13 October 2021. More details may be found at www.go.gov.sg/time-limited-rrt-art. (Please refer to the advisory sent dated 17 September 2021.)

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.

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

Annex – Safe Management Measures at Funeral Events [As at 27 September 2021]

- a. Attendees at wakes and funerals including foot processions, shall be kept to 30 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 30 persons in total. NEA will issue 30 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 (non-wind) 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 tidbits (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. From 19 August 2021, temperature screening is no longer required. Any person who is unwell must be turned away.
- l. 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 advised 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>.