

Dear Funeral Directors and Funeral Parlour Operators,

### **Resuming Our Transition to Resilience**

As we continue to transition to a COVID-19 resilient nation, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) has announced to simplify and streamline the Safe Management Measures (SMMs) on 11 March 2022. The measures will take effect from **15 March 2022**. For more information, please visit the MOH website at <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/resuming-our-transition-to-resilience>.

#### Safe Distancing Not Required for Mask-on Settings

2. **Safe distancing is encouraged but will not be required** between individuals or groups in mask-on settings. Organisers of funeral events are encouraged to spread crowds as evenly as possible and to avoid chokepoints.

#### Lifting of Event Size Limits for Funeral Events Except for Home Funerals

3. The event group **size limit for wakes and funerals including foot processions of 30 persons or fewer will be removed**. The maximum number of attendees present at the same time will be based on the capacity of the venue<sup>1</sup>.

4. For funerals held at home, the current requirement of up to 30 attendees remains.

5. For cremation service at Mandai Crematorium, it shall be attended by **not more than 50 persons** in total. NEA will issue **50 entry passes** for each cremation application at Mandai Crematorium. This is in view of ensuring safe capacity at the venue and to avoid chokepoints.

6. For burial at Choa Chu Kang Cemetery and ash scattering at Garden of Peace @ CCK, the event group size limit of 30 persons will be removed.

7. Attendees to all funeral events are required to keep masks on at all times and encouraged to practise safe distancing to reduce the risk of transmission.

8. The requirements in the Annex are for your compliance. 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).

9. 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,

Kaylene Lee

Memorial Facilities and Planning Division

National Environment Agency

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## **Annex – Safe Management Measures at Funeral Events [As at 15 March 2022]**

- a. The event group size limit for wakes and funerals including foot processions of 30 persons or fewer will be removed. The maximum number of attendees at wakes and funerals including foot processions present at the same time will be based on the capacity of the venue<sup>1</sup>.
- b. Cremations at held at Mandai Crematorium shall be attended by not more than 50 persons in total. NEA will issue 50 entry passes for each cremation application at Mandai Crematorium.
- c. The event group size limit for burials and ash scattering at Garden of Peace @ CCK of 30 persons or fewer will be removed. NEA will cease to issue entry passes for burials.
- d. For funerals held at home, the number of attendees shall be kept to 30 persons or fewer at any one time.
- e. Safe distancing is encouraged but not required.
- f. Religious workers, funeral staff and persons involved in the conduct of live instrumental (non-wind) music should be kept to a minimum.
- g. Attendees of funeral events should minimise 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.
- h. 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 with 1m safe distancing from guests present at the funeral/wake event, and in groups of up to 5 individuals.
- i. 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. 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.

- j. 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.
- k. 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). Use of face shields in place of face mask is no longer allowed.
- l. From 19 August 2021, temperature screening is no longer required. Any person who is unwell must be turned away.
- m. 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.
- n. 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.
- o. 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.
- p. Individuals are urged to continue to exercise personal responsibility and conduct self-testing, and practise good personal hygiene, especially prior to visiting crowded places or interacting with vulnerable groups.
- q. 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/docs/librariesprovider5/art---self-test/simple-guide-to-art-self-test-kits-\(jul-21---web-version\).pdf?sfvrsn=3642cdc6\\_0](https://www.moh.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider5/art---self-test/simple-guide-to-art-self-test-kits-(jul-21---web-version).pdf?sfvrsn=3642cdc6_0).

<sup>1</sup> For funeral events with up to 1,000 attendees, the maximum number of attendees present at the same time will be based on the capacity of the venue. For funerals events with more than 1,000 attendees, the maximum number of attendees will be subject to a capacity limit of 50%. For example, at a funeral with 1,200 pax, it would need to be held at a venue that can accommodate at least 2,400 attendees, or the event size would have to be capped at 1,000 pax.

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Thank you.

Regards,

**Kaylene LEE (Ms)** | Manager (Engagement and Capability Development Branch)

Memorial Facilities and Planning Division

40 Scotts Road, #21-00 Environment Building, Singapore 228231

DID: 6708 6117 | [www.nea.gov.sg](http://www.nea.gov.sg) | [myENV app](#)