

7 January 2022

All Residents staying in NUS Hostels

## COVID-19: UPDATED SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES IN HOSTELS

Dear Residents

Please note the following updated guidelines for residents staying in Halls, Houses, Residential Colleges and Residences. These measures will supersede earlier circulars and take immediate effect. This document should also be read in conjunction with the latest government and university advisories and regulations.

1. Residents should
  - a. wear a mask when they leave their hostel rooms or when in a room with another person.
  - b. maintain a default of at least 1m safe distancing at all times.
  - c. comply with vaccination status declaration, FET tests and other measures found in the updated [OSHE Circulars](#).
  - d. download and use mobile apps as prescribed by the University, including the Trace Together and uNivUS apps.
  - e. seek medical attention promptly if unwell and comply with instructions given; they should inform hostel authorities (Hostel Master and office administrators) if they have been instructed to self-isolate or be placed on quarantine as a result of contact tracing, medical advice or for any other reason. They should subsequently update hostel authorities on any change in their status.
  - f. Residents must inform hostel authorities (Hostel Master and office administrators) if they have been put under the Ministry of Health's (MOH's) Health Risk Warning (HRW) or Health Risk Alert (HRA).
  - g. take necessary precautions with respect to hand and environmental hygiene.
2. **FET and Vaccination Related Matters**
  - a. Residents are reminded to do the following as per [OSHE Circular 34](#),
    - I. If you are fully vaccinated, you are required to do the FET test **every Sunday** and upload the results onto uNivUS.
    - II. If you are unvaccinated, you are required to do the FET test **every Sunday and Wednesday**, and upload the results onto uNivUS.

- b. All residents **must** declare their vaccination status in uNivUS if they have not already done so. Otherwise, residents will be regarded as unvaccinated individuals. Residents are to declare overseas vaccination as per [OSHE Circular 39](#).
- c. Appropriate action will be taken against non-compliance with FET requirements and other safety measures.
- d. Residents are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is one way to prevent the disease, minimise the risk of transmission, and prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed. Residents who have not registered their interest in vaccination may do so via <https://www.vaccine.gov.sg/> and they will be progressively invited to book their vaccination appointments.

### 3. **Use of Common Spaces within the Hostel for CCAs and Student Activities**

Residents participating in **student activities** should comply with the following revised guidelines:

- a. Activities should be Mask-on only unless they fall under the provisions 3(c) or 3(d).
- b. **Indoor or Outdoor Mask-on activities**. No more than 50 participants or the capacity limit of the venue, whichever is lower, are allowed, regardless of vaccination status. There should be at least 1-metre distance between individuals, or if this is not possible, at least 1-metre distancing between **groups of no more than 5 persons**.
- c. **Sports and other dynamic activities**. In addition to the guidelines on group size and participant limits above, sports and other dynamic activities held in these spaces should adhere to the other SMMs detailed in [SportSG's latest advisory](#) and the [updated NUS CCA Guidelines](#).
- d. **Voice Training, speech and drama, singing and playing of wind and brass instruments**. In addition to the guidelines on group size and participant limits above, these activities held in these spaces should adhere to the other SMMs detailed in [NAC's prevailing advisory](#) and the [updated NUS CCA Guidelines](#).

### 4. **Hosting and Visitors**

- a. Residents can interact in groups of 5 (residents from the same hostel):
  - i. No more than 2 people (*including the host*) should be present in the resident's room or living area in a suite at any time.
  - ii. Masks must be worn at all times<sup>1</sup> and 1m safe distance is maintained.

- b. Each hostel resident can host up to 5 unique visitors per day (including individuals from outside NUS) provided:
  - i. From **1 Feb 2022**, all external visitors will need to either be (i) vaccinated, (ii) medically Ineligible or (iii) recovered from COVID in the last 180 days.
  - ii. The host must check the vaccination status of the visitors before allowing them to enter the campus.
  - iii. All external visitors are registered in advance with the hostel, for the purpose of contact tracing and checking of vaccination status prior to entry.
  - iv. All external visitors are hosted only in the designated hostel common areas located outside the resident rooms (the living room area of a suite is **not** considered a common area).
  - v. Masks are worn at all times<sup>1</sup> and 1m safe distance is maintained.
  - vi. External visitors will be asked to leave the premises if they are not registered or do not comply with any SMMs. Hosts will also be sanctioned for breach of any SMMs by their visitors.

<sup>1</sup> All hostel residents should avoid unmasking (e.g. to eat or drink) during social interactions. At all times, residents should mask up when not in the process of eating or drinking, even if food or beverage is at hand.

## 5. Dining-in at the Hostel

- a. Dining-in at dining halls: up to 5 diners per table for fully vaccinated individuals (who are not subject to protocols 1, 2 or 3) are allowed, with seating 1m apart between groups of 2 diners. Only takeaway option is available for unvaccinated individuals.
- b. Dining in kitchenettes/suite common areas: only up to 2 diners are allowed provided all are fully vaccinated.
- c. There should not be more than 50 persons in the dining halls at any one time, with *at least* 1m safe distancing between groups, and other necessary safe management measures in place, including 1m distancing within persons in the group wherever possible.
- d. All hostel residents should mask up when not consuming food and beverage, leave the dining hall immediately after finishing their meals and not linger.

*Note that changes to these measures may be necessary in response to the situation in the community as well as to the outcome of ongoing surveillance activities such as fast- and-easy (FET) testing and wastewater sampling.*

The updated sanctions framework for non-compliance with the above guidelines can be found in the demerit point structure document on the [OSA housing regulations website](#). Please note that students who repeatedly or egregiously breach the guidelines may also be referred to the Board of Discipline.

Thank you for your efforts to keep campus residences safer for all.

Office of Student Affairs