

26 April 2022

CONTENT PRODUCTIONS DURING COVID-19

1. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce updated on 22 April 2022 that there will be further easing of community Safe Management Measures (SMMs) from 26 April 2022. Vaccination-differentiated SMMs (VDS) will be removed for most settings. Workplace Vaccination Measures will no longer be required. Please refer to MOH's latest press release, <https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/further-easing-of-community-and-border-measures>, and MOM's latest advisories here: <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19>.

2. Under the Information and Communications sector, business entities involved in the sub-categories of permitted services with SSIC codes 58 to 63 (<https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/permittedlist/>) can continue to operate.

3. For business entities that are involved in content production, please take note of the following **Content Production SMMs** which would affect filming:

(a) All activities are subject to the SMM 1-5 framework:

- Group size: No limits, including number of household visitors
- Mask-wearing: Mask-wearing required for indoor settings outside of the home including on public transport
- Workplace requirements: All workers may now return to the workplace; workers will be allowed to remove their masks at the workplace for certain settings
- Safe distancing: No longer required
- Capacity limits: No longer required

(b) Personnel:

- All personnel should comprise only talent/performers (i.e. cast), crew, and staff
- No on-site audiences should be present on location; production areas should be cordoned off with clear signage where members of the public may be passing by
- Number of personnel onsite is subject to the filming venue or location owners' permission and guidelines

(c) Mask-wearing:

- Talent/performers may unmask indoors in the course of carrying out their work (no cap on number), and should resume wearing a mask as soon as practicable
- Unmasking dispensations are to be kept strictly to the fixed cast of onscreen talent/performers (not interchangeable with other non-onscreen roles) for the entire production
- Crew/staff are encouraged to continue wearing their masks outdoors during the production.

4. For more information and details, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions in the Annex.

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FAQs

Permitted Services from 26 April 2022

- 1. Q: Are independent and freelancers allowed to resume production activities from 26 April 2022 onwards? What about freelancers?**

A: From 26 April 2022 onwards, business entities with SSIC codes under the Permitted Services List can continue/resume business activities. Freelancers or independent filmmakers that carry out business using their full name (as reflected in NRIC) may proceed as long as their activity is stated in the Permitted Services List, while complying with the Content Production SMMs.

Guidelines for Production

- 2. Q: Where can I find information on best practices for content productions?**

A: For a list of best practices for media business entities and professionals (including freelancers) to follow, please refer to information available at either of the following:

- Association of Independent Producers
- Singapore Association of Motion Picture Professionals

For photography, please refer to the guidelines published by the Professional Photographers Association (Singapore).

- 3. Q: What are the definitions of indoor and outdoor settings? Do I need to seek permission from location owners? Are official IMDA approvals/letters required?**

A: Indoor settings include office building, shopping malls, public transport such as buses and trains, within hawker centres, coffeeshops and wet markets, HDB retail shops and other shophouses. Outdoor settings include HDB void decks, HDB retail shop walkways, five-foot ways, bus stops and open-air bus interchanges, pergolas, awnings, trellises, natural overhangs such as tree canopies, portable “shelters” such as umbrellas. Please refer to MOH’s definitions here for more details.

For filming carried out where members of the public may be passing by, please ensure to cordon off the production area with clear signage. Any person who is not working on the production should not be allowed to crowd around the production area.

As with all content productions, permissions should be sought from location owners prior to using the location for filming. Please note that the location owners may have their own guidelines and conditions for usage of their space. For filming in homes, please refer to Q7.

Content production work done by permitted enterprises may proceed without further approval or official letter from the IMDA. Please ensure compliance with the Content Production SMMs and permission by location owners has been obtained.

4. Q: Do the Workforce Vaccination Measures apply to all onscreen talent?

A: Workforce Vaccination Measures is no longer required; however, content productions should take note to minimise the involvement of the vulnerable (including child actors aged 12 and below) and their interaction with the rest of the personnel.

5. Q: How should productions handle the provision of masks for onscreen talent? These talent won't be able to wear masks after makeup is done. Are production crew such as make-up artists and sound crew allowed to be in close proximity?

A: In indoor settings, the use of face shields is recommended for onscreen talent that have done their makeup with their masks off. These should be taken off only right before a take, and must be put back on immediately in between takes. When the take is completed, they should put on their masks. Personnel in close contact with unmasked talent (e.g. makeup, sound crew) are strongly encouraged to wear masks with face shields and reduce close contact.

Safe distancing is no longer required between individuals or groups, whether masked or unmasked, indoor or outdoor.

6. Q: It is noted that news presenters are able to perform their work without wearing masks. Can this be applied to radio presenters or voice talent?

A: In indoor settings, radio presenters or voice talent working in indoor settings may remove their masks only right before a take, and must be put back on immediately in between takes, as well as after the take is completed.

Safe distancing is no longer required between individuals or groups, whether masked or unmasked, indoor or outdoor.

7. Q: From 26 April 2022 onwards, there will not be any group size limits. Does this apply to the number of unique visitors per occupied household? How will this affect content productions?

A: There will not be any limit to the number of unique visitors in occupied households* for content productions.

**Occupied households refer to a home and its occupants as a place of residence. The occupant being away for the duration of a production does not change the definition of an occupied household/residence. Examples of non-occupied households which could be used as production space include showrooms and vacated homes for sale and rental.*

8. Q: How should production personnel (cast/crew) consume their meals while filming on location? Where can they consume if in public?

A: Talent and crew should have their meal breaks at their workplace in accordance with rules pertaining to social gathering as per the SMM 1-5 framework.

9. Q: What are the rules governing media student productions from 26 April 2022 onwards? What about productions for personal use?

A: Media students from Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs) are to check with their respective IHL on the advisory on filming activities, as these will take precedence.

Graduating cohorts, who are required to produce or participate in a film as part of their examination requirements and/or coursework for graduation (i.e. Final Year Project), will be allowed to resume filming activities according to IMDA's Content Production SMMs for enterprises with the stipulated unmasking dispensation. As with all content productions, these filming activities are subject to the venue or location owners' permission and guidelines.

All other IHL student productions not related to graduation requirements, and productions for personal use should abide by the prevailing SMM 1-5 framework.

10. Q: Where can I find guidelines for other sectors? What about productions of "live" events i.e. involving onsite audiences?

A: Guidelines for other sectors may be viewed [here](#).

Digital recording and/or live streaming of productions, performances, presentations, or events with on-site audiences should adhere to the respective regulations: NAC's [Safety Management Measures for live performances](#) and STB's [Safety Management Measures for MICE](#), and MOM's [Safety Management Measures](#) for work-related events (conferences, seminars, Annual General Meetings etc). Please also refer to Q14 for media conferences and public speaking.

Locations

11. Q: What are the filming locations that will still need additional approval?

A: Filming requests for gardens, parks and nature reserves managed by the National Parks Board (NParks) may be submitted to NParks' website [here](#), at least 2 weeks prior to the production.

How to handle COVID-19 positive cases

12. Q: What should I do if I have a COVID-19 positive case in my production?

A: Productions are to follow the prevailing [C+ Protocol](#):

- Protocol 1 – Individuals who are unwell, see a doctor, follow recovery instructions, Home Recovery Programme if eligible or be conveyed to a care facility.
- Protocol 2 – Individuals who are C+ but well, self-isolate for 72 hours, retake ART test after 72 hours, if negative, end isolation. If still positive, continue to isolate for 7 days (vaccinated individuals) or 14 days (partially vaccinated/unvaccinated individuals).
- Protocol 3 – Close contacts of C+ will be served a HRN for 5-days ART monitoring. There will not be a need for Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) anymore.

Media conferences and public speaking

13. Q: Where may I view the Safe Management Measures for media conferences and public speaking?

A: The Safety Management Measures regarding media conferences are based on the unmasking concession for public speaking for masked-on settings, and are detailed in the [COVID-19 \(Temporary Measures\) \(Reopening – Control Order\) Regulations 2022](#). All activities are subject to the SMM 1-5 framework.

Media conference SMMs:

- Organised for the primary purpose of distributing information to, and answering questions from the media so as to obtain publicity for a particular matter
- Attended mainly by recognised reporters, or intended mainly for recognised reporters to attend, who must remain masked at all times when indoors
- Interviewees must be standing or seated generally in a fixed position on the stage, lectern, rostrum, podium, soapbox or other platform, or any other area which is designed to be used by performers;
- Interviewees may unmask when speaking indoors and must put masks back on as soon as practicable.

Please note that for vox pops, doorstep, or interviews with members of the public when indoors, the interviewees must remain masked.

The Safety Management Measures regarding public speaking and unmasking concession for public speaking are detailed across various settings in the [COVID-19 \(Temporary Measures\) \(Reopening – Control Order\) Regulations 2022](#)

Photography

14. Q: What are the rules governing professional photography?

A: Photography professionals/entities with SSIC starting with 742, or media companies with SSIC starting with 58-63 may conduct photography sessions, with persons being photographed unmasked if necessary for indoor settings. Freelance professional photographers have to be registered with ACRA, unless the business is carried out in their full name as reflected in their NRIC.

In addition to the guidelines for content productions that also apply to professional photography, persons whose photos are being taken are allowed to unmask temporarily indoors only when the shot is being taken and must put masks back on immediately after the shot.

Please refer to the [guidelines](#) published by the [Professional Photographers Association \(Singapore\)](#).

For photography in specific settings (e.g. workplace, weddings and events), please refer to the sector-specific guidelines [here](#).

Foreign personnel entering Singapore

15. Q: Where can I find information about business travellers entering Singapore?

A: Information regarding existing Safe Travel Lanes for foreigners entering Singapore may be viewed [here](#) on the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority's website.