20 Dec 2021

CINEMA OPERATIONS – UPDATES TO COMMUNITY SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES IN TRANSITION PHASE

1. The Multi-Ministry Taskforce announced on 14 December 2021 several updates to community safe management measures in Transition Phase from 20 December 2021.

2. For latest MOH statements on COVID-19, please visit https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19

Mandatory Safe Management Measures (SMMs) for Cinemas

3. From 22 November 2021, cinema operators are to comply with the following measures:

3.1 Cinemas must adhere to the prevailing capacity limits of up to 1,000 pax per cinema hall, for individuals with a cleared status only; with the 1-metre safe distancing between different groups of patrons. The provision for children 12 years and below applies. Individuals are not allowed entry otherwise.

3.2 Permissible group size will be maximum of 5 pax:

   a) Up to 5 individuals with a cleared status;
   b) Up to 5 children (12 years old and below, born in and after 2009), all from the same household; or
   c) Up to 5 individuals consisting of one or more children (12 years old and below, born in and after 2009, all from the same household)

3.3 The number of children attendees (12 years old and below, born in and after 2009) should not exceed more than 20% of the total number of patrons in each hall. This capacity limit will be lifted from 1 January 2022.

3.4 From 1 January 2022, there will no longer be a concession for unvaccinated individuals to perform PET in lieu of being fully vaccinated.

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1 Cinemas refer to Golden Village, Cathay Cineplexes, Shaw Theatres, Filmgarde, WE Cinemas, The Projector, Eaglewing Cinematics, Carnival Cinemas and Salt Media@Capital Tower. Other establishments with screening venues that are allowed to operate, must also comply with the mandatory SMMs for Cinemas.

2 An individual is considered to have a cleared status if the individual has been:
   a) fully vaccinated, i.e. has received the appropriate regimen of World Health Organisation Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) vaccines including their respective duration post-vaccination for the vaccine to be fully effective and had their vaccination records ingested in MOH’s national IT systems, b) recovered from COVID-19 within the last 180 days after infection, c) has obtained a negative result on a pre-event test taken in the past 24 hours before the expected end of the event (applicable only till 31 Dec 2021), or d) medically ineligible for COVID-19 vaccines, with valid proof.

3 Unvaccinated children may be included in a group of up to 5 persons if the children are from the same household. If the social group has more than one child (12 years old and below, born in and after 2009), all children must be from the same household.
3.5 Dining-in and food and beverage consumption in the cinemas is allowed for individuals with a cleared status. Cinemas must continue to place their relevant F&B staff on the Fast and Easy Testing (FET) regime. Refer to this link for FET guidelines.

3.6 Ensure safe distancing of at least 1-metre between different groups of patrons. The 1-metre is measured from edge of seat to edge of seat and must be a 1-metre radius separating each group.

3.7 Cinema patrons and staff must keep their masks on at all times, except when eating or drinking. Patrons may don a face shield instead of a mask if they have valid proof of medical conditions that do not allow the wearing of masks. However, as premise occupiers, cinema operators could impose stricter entry conditions should they wish to deny face shield-wearing patrons in consideration of the concerns from other masked-up patrons.

Mandatory SafeEntry Check-in

4. Cinemas must deploy either the SafeEntry Gateway (SEGW) or use the SEGW feature on the SE (Business) App as a check-in method at the main entrance. All patrons must check-in with an individual TraceTogether device. To facilitate more effective contact tracing efforts, SafeEntry check-out is encouraged.

5. Cinemas must conduct entry controls and refuse entry to the venue by any individual whom the venue manager of the venue knows or has reason to believe:
   a. does not have a cleared status or;
   b. is a symptomatic case or;
   c. is subject to a movement control measure or;
   d. who refuses to comply with the entry control procedures and/or any mandatory SMM for cinemas.

   Cinemas need not conduct temperature screening of patrons or employees.

6. Cinemas must have regular cleaning and disinfecting of high touch point areas and cater additional cleaning time of cinema halls between shows.

7. Cinemas must implement crowd and queue management measures to ensure patrons abide by prevailing safe distancing rules in the Control Order.

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4 FET is only required where there is dine-in. For cinema counters where F&B is sold, this is similar to takeaway concepts and FET for staff is not required. For F&B types where staff serves the food to the cinema goers, if it is a one-off delivery, FET is not required. However if the cinema has a concept similar to a restaurant where staff have repeated contact with unmasked diners, then FET is required for these staff.
8. For the avoidance of doubt, to the extent the implementation of or compliance with any measure within the SMMs above is inconsistent with the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 (“Control Order”) by reason of being less stringent in respect of public safety, the requirements under the Control Order shall prevail.