



P R E S S R E L E A S E

30 May 2020

PREPARING FOR SAFE WORKING, SAFE LIVING AND SAFE REST DAYS

The Inter-Agency Task Force (ITF) had earlier announced on 15 May 2020 that in the recovery phase of its operations, it aims to clear dormitories or dormitory blocks housing up to 60,000 migrant workers in the ensuing weeks. The ITF will systematically and progressively clear all remaining dormitories in the coming months, by testing and safeguarding the good health of all the residents.

2 MOM and the ITF are working with all stakeholders – dormitory operators, employers, and migrant workers – to make preparations so that workers can be allowed to resume work once their dormitory is cleared of COVID-19 infections.

PREPARING FOR SAFE WORKING AND SAFE LIVING

Step 1: Cleared Blocks / Dormitories

3 The ITF will announce the first batch of Cleared Blocks / Dormitories next week. A Cleared Dormitory is one where every block within has been cleared. The residents in the Cleared Blocks / Dormitories are either workers who had COVID-19 infection and have since recovered, or have been tested negative.

4 Residents in a Cleared Block / Dormitory will have to remain within their block until the following additional steps are completed.

Step 2: Actions by Dormitory Operator

- 5 Dormitory operators are required to complete a checklist to:
- Provide MOM with an up-to-date register of all residents housed in the dormitory.
 - Demonstrate ability to implement tight entry and exit controls.
 - Show that facility and housing arrangements limit inter-mixing. In particular, the residential blocks must be physically segregated from one another.
 - Set aside sick bay beds and isolation facilities to facilitate quick containment if there is an infection.
 - Work with employers to plan staggered pick-up and drop-off times.

Dormitory operators must fully implement all the measures in the Safe Living checklist, as detailed in the [Advisory for Dormitory Operators](#) (see Annex). This applies to Purpose-built Dormitories, Factory-converted Dormitories, Construction Temporary Quarters, Temporary Living Quarters (with seven or more migrant worker residents), Quarters on Temporary Occupation Licence Sites and Government-provided accommodation facilities (e.g. vacant HDB flats, old schools and sports halls).

Step 3: Actions by Employer

- 6 Employers are required to:
- Confirm or update the addresses for each migrant worker in the Online Foreign Worker Address Service (OFWAS).
 - Show proof of approval by relevant government agencies to resume work¹.
 - Provide dormitory operators with the list of workers who had been approved to start work and plan staggered pick-up and drop-off time by the company's dedicated transport.

Step 4: Actions by Migrant Workers

- 7 Workers are required to:
- Monitor their health and report their daily health status using the MOM FWMOMCare mobile application.
 - Update their location and mobile numbers using the FWMOMCare mobile application.
 - Download and activate the latest version of the TraceTogether mobile application.

MOM will also issue an [Advisory for Employers](#) (see Annex) on the additional responsibilities of employers and workers for Safe Living. We will be translating the additional responsibilities for workers into their native languages for dissemination.

8 It is important for dormitory operators, employers and workers to fully comply with the requirements in Steps 2 to 4. In particular, each worker's address must be independently updated by the dormitory operator, employer and worker. If the worker's address as reported by the three parties does not tally, it has to be rectified before the worker can resume work. This is to ensure future contact tracing efforts are not hampered and the health and safety of other dormitory residents compromised.

9 Workers will also be required to install mobile applications to complement the contact tracing and containment efforts. The TraceTogether application will enable the Government to know who the worker came into close contact with when he leaves the dormitory for work. The FWMOMCare application will allow workers to update their mobile numbers with MOM, so that Quarantine Orders can be served quickly.

10 Dormitory operators should work with employers to implement the Safe Living measures to minimise the risk of transmission. They are also responsible to ensure their residents comply with Safe Living measures in the dormitory. They may do so by setting clear house rules and the corresponding consequences for non-compliance. For example, dormitory operators may impose a small financial penalty for non-compliance. All cases of non-compliance must be reported to MOM. Workers who repeatedly breach house rules pose a risk to others and may have their work passes revoked.

¹ Besides essential businesses that are already operating, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has given businesses in certain industries a class exemption to resume business. Resumption of activities in the construction industry will be subject to arrangements established by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA). Similarly, the resumption of activities in the marine and offshore, and process construction and maintenance activities will be subject to arrangements established by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

11 MOM and relevant sector agencies will ensure that all measures laid out in the advisories are properly implemented before workers are allowed to exit the dormitory for work. Depending on actual implementation of the measures, MOM may grant approval for specific cleared blocks or entire cleared dormitories. A worker may only leave the dormitory for work if his employers has the necessary approvals from relevant Government agencies to resume business operations. This calibrated approach to clearing and re-opening our dormitories is necessary to keep our workers and community safe.

12 Given the extensive preparations required, we expect dormitory operators, employers and workers to need about a week to implement the required measures before they can resume work. If the requirements are met sooner, workers will be allowed to resume work earlier. However, the focus should be to ensure that the preparations are done properly.

SAFE REST DAYS

13 Besides measures to enable workers to return to work safely, new practices and dormitory arrangements are also needed for their social activities on rest days. The following will apply to Cleared Blocks / Dormitories which have been checked and approved by MOM:

- i) Phase One – "Safe Opening": Workers can only leave their dormitories for work, using designated transport provided by their employers. Their employers must ensure that they return to the dormitories immediately after they finish work. On rest days, the workers will be required to remain in the dormitories. Employers must ensure that all their workers living in the dormitories continue to have access to food and daily necessities, regardless of whether they are eligible to work.
- ii) Phase Two – "Safe Transition": When infection rates in the community and dormitories have been sustained at low levels for a period of time, eligible workers will be able to run errands outside the dormitories on their rest days. To minimise the risk of large group movements, they will do so on staggered rest days and at staggered timeslots. A system will be introduced to enable eligible workers to apply for their preferred timeslots. For a start, they may leave the dormitories for up to two hours on their designated rest days to travel to one of eight Recreational Centres. Dormitories will be required to provide dedicated transport, either on their own or in partnership with one another, to shuttle the workers to and from the Recreational Centres. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed.
- iii) Phase Three – "Safe Nation": Rest days will continue to be staggered. Eligible workers will be able to leave dormitories for longer durations and to more locations on their designated rest days.

14 The Building and Construction Authority (BCA), Economic Development Board (EDB) and Enterprise Singapore will require project owners in the construction, marine and process sectors to implement a system of staggered rest days for their Work Permit Holders and S Pass holders. MOM will also require construction employers not linked to projects (e.g. incinerator plant maintenance contractors) to adopt staggered rest days. Agencies are engaging the relevant industry associations on their preferred approach and to have effective implementation by the end of Phase One. The Government will also assess the need to regulate the flow of visitors to major congregation spots frequented by migrant workers on their rest days, should dormitory residents eventually be able to go to places other than the Recreation Centres.

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ADVISORY FOR DORMITORY OPERATORS¹ ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFE LIVING MEASURES IN FOREIGN WORKER DORMITORIES

Issued on 30 May 2020

1. As Singapore moves towards gradually easing Circuit Breaker measures, the Inter-agency Task Force (ITF) has started to systematically test all migrant workers living in the dormitories to enable them to resume work safely.
2. In tandem with these efforts, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has introduced a set of Safe Living measures to strengthen dormitory management practices, so that workers can live in dormitories safely.
3. Operators of foreign worker dormitories are required to implement Safe Living measures in three areas:
 - a. Tighten control of dormitory entry and exit: Dormitory operators will be required to track all movements in and out of the dormitories.
 - b. Limit inter-mixing of workers: Dormitory operators will be required to set up physical barriers to prevent residents from inter-mixing between blocks and levels. They must also schedule timeslots to stagger the use of common facilities.
 - c. Strengthen health monitoring and facilitate contact tracing: Dormitory operators are required to monitor the health of their residents, facilitate required testing of their residents, and set aside onsite isolation facilities.
4. Details on the Safe Living measures can be found in the [Safe Living Checklist \(Annex A\)](#). Dormitory operators would have already put in place some of these measures earlier to facilitate the clearing of workers in the dormitories. These measures apply to dormitories or blocks within a dormitory that house workers who have recovered from or tested negative for COVID-19.
5. Dormitory operators should put in place the measures and wait for MOM's further instruction before their workers can be allowed to leave the dormitories for work. Only workers who are cleared of COVID-19, and who are residing in specified dormitories or specified blocks within a dormitory will be allowed to leave the dormitories for work, subject to their employers having the approval to re-open.
6. Dormitory operators should clearly communicate these measures to their residents and are responsible to ensure that their residents comply with Safe Living measures in the dormitories. They should set out clearly, the rules to be complied with and consequences for non-compliance. For example, dormitory operators may prohibit workers to visit other blocks or gathering in groups of 5 or more outside their units, and impose a small financial penalty for failure to comply. All cases of residents' non-

¹ This refers to Purpose-built Dormitories, Factory-converted Dormitories, Construction Temporary Quarters, Temporary Living Quarters (with seven or more foreign worker residents), Quarters on Temporary Occupation Licence Sites and Government-provided accommodation facilities (e.g. vacant HDB flats, old schools and sports halls). This excludes private residential premises and HDB flats.

compliance must be reported to MOM. For workers who repeatedly breach the rules, MOM may consider revoking their work pass.

7. Dormitory operators licensed under the Foreign Employee Dormitories Act (FEDA), will also be subjected to new Licence Conditions on the Safe Living measures. FEDA dormitory operators may be fined up to \$50,000 or jailed up to 12 months, or both, for each condition that is contravened or not complied with.
8. As we prepare to exit from the Circuit Breaker, we urge dormitory operators to remain vigilant and ensure that Safe Living measures are rigorously implemented to reduce the risk of subsequent waves of COVID-19 infections in dormitories.
9. For further queries, please refer to the [FAQs \(Annex B\)](#). Otherwise, please contact:

Ministry of Manpower Online enquiry www.mom.gov.sg	Ministry of Health Online enquiry www.moh.gov.sg
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ANNEX A1: SAFE LIVING CHECKLIST FOR DORMITORY OPERATORS

Some requirements in Annex A1 may not be applicable in some instances, such as in dormitories with only en-suite cooking or toilet facilities, or dormitories that only have a single block.

A. Tighter control of entry and exit

- Ensure 24/7 manning of entrances and track all movements in and out of the dormitory.
- Carefully regulate the entry and exit of residents, in accordance with movement controls required by the Government.
- Check the temperature of every visitor to the dormitory. Register visitors and their purpose of visit, and issue them with identification passes before allowing them into the dormitory. During this period, visitors are only allowed for essential purposes e.g. repair works.
- Visually inspect individuals entering or leaving the dormitory for symptoms* of infection.

B. Limit inter-mixing of workers

- Work with employers to implement measures to group their workers by rooms, floors and blocks.
- Set up barriers and mark out routes from dormitory blocks to common areas and entrances, and ensure that workers from different blocks and floors do not inter-mix. In particular, “cleared dormitories and blocks”, which will be used to house only workers who have recovered from or who tested negative for COVID-19, should be separated from the rest of the dormitory that is not cleared.
- Mark out and assign shared toilets and communal cooking areas for the use by occupants of the same room. In communal kitchens, allow only one cook per stove at any one time (i.e. no sharing). Where en-suite cooking facilities are available, residents can be allowed to cook.
- Schedule the use of other communal facilities and shared services amongst “cleared blocks and dormitories” and ensure that workers from different blocks and floors do not inter-mix. This includes access to outdoor recreational spaces, haircut and remittance services.
- Facilitate contactless ordering and delivery of purchases from minimarts, canteens and shops in the dormitory. Set up a process for residents to safely collect purchases that are delivered by merchants outside the dormitory.
- Continue to keep communal dining areas and indoor recreational facilities closed.
- Designate separate waiting areas for the pick-up and drop-off of residents, such that residents who live in different blocks or work for different employers do not inter-mix. Where necessary, coordinate with employers to stagger the pick-up and drop-off timings of residents.

* Symptoms of infection include a) coughing, b) sneezing, c) breathlessness, d) a runny nose and e) loss of smell

ANNEX A2: SAFE LIVING CHECKLIST FOR DORMITORY OPERATORS

All the requirements in Annex A2 must be implemented by all dormitories.

C. Strengthen health monitoring and facilitate contact tracing

- Monitor residents' health closely to identify residents who display symptoms* of infection.
- Ensure that residents who are unwell have timely access to medical support from onsite or regional medical posts, as well as via tele-kiosks at night.
- Set aside 5% of total dormitory capacity as isolation facilities for all dormitories, and an additional 3.5% as medical facilities for FEDA-licensed dormitories.
- Facilitate regular COVID-19 testing of residents, quickly isolate positive cases and ensure that residents who are close contacts of positive cases, as well as those issued with Quarantine Orders (QOs) or eQOs do not leave their floors. Disinfect the affected areas immediately.
- Remind residents to report their daily health status, i.e. temperature and symptoms* of infection to the Ministry of Manpower at least twice daily, at least 8h apart between reports.
- Remind residents to download and activate the latest version of the [TraceTogether mobile application](#) for contact tracing and FWMOMCare mobile application to report their health and update their address daily.

D. FW management and proper housekeeping

- Ensure that workers from "cleared dormitories and blocks" have access to essential services such as remittance and haircut services within the dormitory.
- Ensure that all individuals wear a mask when accessing common areas, communal facilities and shared services.
- Ensure each room has disinfectant solution that residents can use to clean their living areas regularly. Ensure that the disinfectant solution is always available in each room.
- Provide hand-washing, disinfectant solution and sanitising stations at various locations, especially at common areas and communal facilities. Ensure that soaps, disinfectant solution and hand sanitisers are always available.
- Ensure common areas, communal facilities and shared services are clean and regularly disinfected. Where the use of facilities and services are scheduled, they must be disinfected after the use by each group of residents.
- Ensure that Safe Distancing (of maintaining at least 1m from another person) is practised in all parts of the dormitory. Where needed, mark out, close or reorganise spaces that compromise the practice of Safe Distancing (e.g. cooking stoves placed next to each other).
- Maintain an up-to-date register of all residents housed in the dormitory. Upon request, send the updated register to the Ministry of Manpower.

- Enforce the compliance of the Safe Living measures by all residents and report non-compliant workers to the Ministry of Manpower and to their employers.

**Symptoms of infection include a) coughing, b) sneezing, c) breathlessness, d) a runny nose and e) loss of smell*

ADVISORY TO EMPLOYERS ON SAFE LIVING MEASURES FOR FOREIGN WORKER DORMITORIES¹

Issued on 30 May 2020

1. To prepare for the recovery of foreign worker dormitories as we exit the Circuit Breaker, the Inter-agency Task Force (ITF) has started to systematically test and clear all foreign worker dormitory residents before they resume work in the coming months. From 2 June 2020, dormitory operators are required to put in place Safe Living measures at the dormitories so that workers can progressively resume work.
2. In tandem with these efforts, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has introduced new Work Pass Conditions under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act on non-domestic Work Permit and S Pass Holders, and their employers. The movement restrictions for workers living in dormitories during the Circuit Breaker, imposed via a set of Additional Work Pass conditions, will lapse on 1 June 2020. From 2 June 2020, employers will be responsible to:
 - a. Ensure measures to limit inter-mixing amongst residents are implemented at your workers' dormitory: Employers should check if your workers' dormitory have implemented measures to reduce inter-mixing of residents across rooms, levels and blocks, and the use of common facilities are scheduled.
 - b. Monitor your workers' health and take necessary precautions: Employers have to ensure that your workers submit their health readings daily to MOM, and that workers who are unwell are quickly isolated and provided medical treatment.
 - c. Ensure your workers leave the dormitory only for work: Only workers who are cleared of COVID-19, and who are residing in specified dormitories or specified blocks within a dormitory will be allowed to leave the dormitory for work, subject to their employers having the approval to re-open. Workers must return to the dormitory immediately after work.
 - d. Ensure your workers have access to food and essential items: As workers are not allowed to leave their dormitory to buy groceries or packed meals, employers should ensure their workers continue to have access to food and essential items, regardless whether they are eligible to work.
 - e. Cooperate with dormitory operators to facilitate new rooming arrangements: For example, employers should work with dormitory operators to instruct their workers to move to other rooms in the dormitory to facilitate the dormitory clearance process.

Further details of employers' responsibilities can be found in [Annex A](#). Employers must also ensure that your workers understand their responsibilities, as detailed in [Annex B](#). These new Work Pass Conditions will be effective from 2 June 2020.

¹ This refers to Purpose-built Dormitories, Factory-converted Dormitories, Construction Temporary Quarters, Temporary Living Quarters (with seven or more foreign worker residents), Quarters on Temporary Occupation Licence Sites and Government-provided accommodation facilities (e.g. vacant HDB flats, old schools and sports halls). This excludes private residential premises and HDB flats.

Failure to comply with these conditions may be fined up to \$10,000 or jailed up to 12 months, or both.

3. Employers must also arrange private transportation for your own workers staying in dormitories to commute to and from their workplaces, and with no other passengers.
4. As we prepare to exit from the Circuit Breaker, we urge employers to remain vigilant and ensure that Safe Living measures are rigorously implemented to reduce the risk of subsequent waves of COVID-19 infections in dormitories.
5. For further queries, please refer to the [FAQs \(Annex C\)](#). Otherwise, please contact:

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ANNEX A: RESPONSIBILITIES OF EMPLOYERS OF NON-DOMESTIC WORK PERMIT AND S PASS HOLDERS LIVING IN A DORMITORY

A. Ensure measures to limit inter-mixing amongst residents are implemented at your workers' dormitories
1. Work with the dormitory operators to implement Safe Living measures at the dormitory your workers live in. If the dormitory operators refuse to do so, employers should report them to the Ministry of Manpower at mom_qops@mom.gov.sg .
B. Monitor your workers' health and take necessary precautions
2. Ensure that your workers download the FWMOMCare mobile application to report their health and update their addresses daily.
3. Ensure that workers submit their health status via the FWMOMCare mobile application twice daily, at least eight hours apart. Ensure that they scan the QR Code affixed in their rooms using the FWMOMCare mobile application to update their address daily; they need to update the correct block, level and room that they are staying at. Inform MOM at www.mom.gov.sg/feedback-FWMOMCare if your workers are not able to do so.
4. Ensure workers who report sick, and have a fever or displays any COVID-19 symptom ² , are quickly isolated and send them to the nearest medical post set-up by the Government, for medical treatment.
5. Ensure that your workers have gone for all medical examination(s) or test(s), including COVID-19 test(s), as required by the Government.
C. Ensure your workers leave the dormitories only for work
6. Only workers who are cleared of COVID-19, and who are residing in specified dormitories or specified blocks within a dormitory will be allowed to leave the dormitory for work, subject to their employers having approval to re-open their workplace.
7. Ensure that each worker downloads and activates the latest version of the TraceTogether mobile application before leaving the dormitory.
8. Ensure that your workers return to their dormitory immediately after work.
9. Work with the dormitory operators to designate timeslot(s) or waiting area(s) at the dormitory to pick up and drop off your workers, who are permitted to resume work.
D. Ensure your workers have access to food and essential items
10. Ensure that your workers have access to food and essential items, as they are not allowed to leave the dormitory except for work.
E. Cooperate with dormitory operators to facilitate new rooming arrangements

² Symptoms are a) coughing, b) sneezing, c) breathlessness, d) a runny nose, and (e) loss of smell or anosmia.

11. Instruct your workers to move to other rooms in the dormitory to facilitate the dormitory clearance process.

F. Update MOM on your workers' contact information

12. Register and/or update your workers' residential addresses and mobile numbers with MOM via:

Work Permit holders: [Online Foreign Worker Address Service \(OFWAS\)](#)

S Pass holders: [Employment Pass \(EP\) Online](#)

You must do so within five days of your worker moving to a new address or changing to a new mobile number.

ANNEX B: RESPONSIBILITIES OF NON-DOMESTIC WORK PERMIT AND S PASS HOLDERS LIVING IN A DORMITORY

A. Monitor your health and take necessary precautions
1. Take your temperature and report whether you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ³ at least twice daily, 8 hours apart. Submit your health status to MOM via the FWMOMCare mobile application. If you are not able to access the FWMOMCare mobile application, ask your employer or dormitory operator to assist you immediately.
2. Update your location and mobile number using the FWMOMCare mobile application.
3. Go for all medical examination(s) or test(s), including COVID-19 test(s), as directed by the Government.
4. If you have a fever, are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or are physically unwell, inform your employer or dormitory operator immediately.
B. Limit inter-mixing
5. Maintain a physical distance of at least one metre from another person at all times.
6. Wear a mask in any communal areas, such as common areas or facilities in your residence, company transportation or workplace. You do not need to wear a mask in the room where you sleep and in shower facilities.
7. Do not interact with other residents who live in another block or floor from you.
8. Only use shared facilities, such as toilets and communal cooking areas, that are assigned to you by the dormitory operator.
9. Use other communal facilities and shared services in the time slot that is assigned to you. This includes access to outdoor recreational spaces, the barber, and remittance services.
10. Do not use any facilities that are closed e.g. communal dining areas and indoor recreational.
11. If you are eating your meal in your residence, you must consume your meals in your own room (where you sleep).
12. Keep your living area, and other areas or facilities which you use clean and tidy.

³ Symptoms are a) coughing, b) sneezing, c) breathlessness, d) a runny nose, and (e) loss of smell or anosmia.

C. If you are allowed to leave the dormitory for work

13. Download and activate the latest version of the [TraceTogether mobile application](#) before leaving the dormitory.

14. Do not go anywhere besides your worksite and return to your dormitory immediately after your finish work.