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# Countermeasures against COVID-19

Singapore's response

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# Singapore Government response

- Whole-of Government response, lessons from SARS
- Multi-Ministry Task Force formed 22 Jan 2020
- Circuit-breaker measures from 7 Apr 2020
- Switch to mandatory wearing of masks; reusable masks distributed to all households 12 Apr 2020
- Blind spot – surgical masks, foreign worker dormitories

<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>



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# Singapore Government response [con't]

- 4 Budgets [Unity, Resilience, Solidarity, Fortitude] to help cushion the financial impact of COVID-19
- Gradual easing of circuit-breaker measures from 2 May 2020



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# Contributions by SMA

- Sale of N95 masks, surgical masks, to help SMA members keep their clinic operations going
- Distribution of hand sanitiser [courtesy of Temasek Foundation]
- Quickstart guide to Telemedicine
- #sgArtForHCW social media campaign, using art to show support for healthcare workers [in conjunction with National Gallery]



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# Contributions by SMA [con't]

- Advocacy on childcare arrangements for healthcare workers
- Advocacy on CME requirements during COVID-19
- Distribution of face shields to doctors [courtesy of donation by Dr Low Lee Yong]
- Mental health tips for doctors, psychological support [courtesy of Singapore Psychological Society]



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# Contributions by SMA [con't]

- Advocacy on indemnity coverage for doctors volunteering for COVID-19 operations
- Online webinar on Telemedicine



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# Current status [as of Sep 2020]

- Low number of community cases [e.g. 15 cases on 28 Sep 2020]
- Further easing of safe distancing measures on 28 Sep 2020
- Up to 50% of employees can return to work in office
- Work-related events can proceed, but max 50 persons

<https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures>



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# Looking forward

- When will borders open?
- Changes to patient care model? e.g. medical tourism
- Increased adoption of Telemedicine?



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