



Singapore
Medical
Association

Countermeasures against COVID-19

Singapore's response, Jan 2020 – Jul 2021

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- Government response
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- Current status [as of July 2021]
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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 spots – surgical masks, foreign worker dormitories, ktv, fishery port

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



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Singapore Government response

[con't]

- 4 Budgets [Unity, Resilience, Solidarity, Fortitude] in 2020 to help cushion the financial impact of COVID-19
- Gradual easing of circuit-breaker measures from 2 May 2020
- Shuffling between Phase 2 and Phase 3 in 2021
- 2 Budgets in 2021



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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
- Joint letter on misinformation about inaccurate statements about general practitioners
- Monitoring misinformation on COVID-19, including dissociation from online petition claiming to be attributed to a “Former President of Singapore Medical Association”



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Current status [as of Jul 2021]

- High number of community cases [e.g. on 28 Jul 2021, 130 locally transmitted cases, of which 49 are currently unlinked]
- New clusters found at KTV lounges and Jurong Fishery Port, 44 active clusters as of 28 Jul 2021
- Tightening of safe distancing measures from 19 Jul 2021 to 8 Aug 2021
- Work from Home remains the default
- no dine-in, only takeaway

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

[https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/update-on-local-covid-19-situation-\(28-july-2021\)](https://www.moh.gov.sg/news-highlights/details/update-on-local-covid-19-situation-(28-july-2021))



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Looking forward

- Singapore government announced in Jun 2021 that it is moving from pandemic to endemic strategy
- Current focus is on encouraging vaccinations
- Approach is to reopen when vaccination rate reaches a certain level
- Increased usage of rapid testing [e.g. ART]
- Safe distancing measures likely to be lifted gradually, and not all at once

<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/living-normally-with-covid-19>



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