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# Countermeasures against COVID-19

Singapore's response, Jan 2020 – Aug 2022

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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>



# 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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# Singapore Government response [con't]

- Commencement of a booster programme in September 2021
- Jan 2022 - only employees who are fully vaccinated, certified to be medically ineligible or have recovered from COVID-19 within 180 days, can return to the workplace
- Apr 2022 – Workforce Vaccination Measures (VDS) lifted



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# Singapore Government response [con't]

- Dec 2021 - Easing of restrictions for Migrant Workers in Dormitories; up to 3,000 workers per day, no limitations on locations, up to 8 hours per visit; pre-visit testing required
- Aug 2022 - remove legal requirement for mask-wearing in indoor settings, except for settings where essential services are carried out in enclosed and crowded areas, and which are frequently used by vulnerable persons



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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 29 Aug 2022]

Parameter	Current Posture
(1) Group sizes	•No limit
(2) Mask-wearing	•Optional for indoor and outdoor settings • <b>Required on public transport and selected healthcare and residential settings</b>
(3) Workplace requirements	• All can return to office
(4) Safe distancing	• <b>Not required</b>
(5) Capacity Limits	•No limit

<https://www.gov.sg/article/further-easing-of-community-measures>



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# Looking forward

- Vaccination - offering 2nd booster to eligible groups
- Clearing backlog of deferred medical procedures/surgeries during COVID-19
- Preparations for next pandemic [including measures for Monkeypox]
- Healthier SG – new empanelment programme for entire population



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