

30 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

REVISED APPROACH TO MANAGE CONSTRUCTION WORKSITES VISITED BY COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES

1. Currently, BCA requires permitted enterprises (i.e. main builders of construction worksites and companies managing construction Supply Works Premises that have been approved to resume work) to adopt a Safety Time-Out (STO) where the worksites were visited by individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 (C+). The permitted enterprises are required to disinfect the worksites and review and/or strengthen their safe management measures plans before the STO may be lifted.

From 1 Oct 2021 – Management Protocol for Construction Worksites

2. With the current high vaccination coverage, we are moving towards a COVID-resilient nation. Critically, proper implementation of safe management measures remains key to managing the spread of COVID-19 at worksites. To minimise work disruption, it is important to increase surveillance of COVID-19 cases through supervised Antigen Rapid Tests (ART).

3. **From 1 October 2021, permitted enterprises shall implement the following management protocol:**

- a) **Permitted enterprises that are subcontractors/firms listed under Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works shall**

immediately notify main builders of worksites if their C+ employee(s) have visited the worksite within 7 days prior to their COVID-19 diagnosis.

- b) Permitted enterprises, upon becoming aware of C+ cases at the worksites shall **immediately disinfect the worksite or affected work zone(s) visited by the C+ case(s)** in accordance with NEA Guidelines. The disinfection report has to be submitted to BCA within 24 hours from the date when the permitted enterprise becomes aware of C+ cases at the worksites at <https://go.gov.sg/bca-covid19-compliance-report>.

- c) Permitted enterprises to **ensure all personnel, before commencing work at the worksites, undergo supervised ART every three days for a period of 7 days (i.e. ART D1, D4 & D7). If, during the 7-day period a subsequent C+ case is at the worksite, permitted enterprises shall ensure all personnel undergo supervised ART every three days for a period of 7 days from the day immediately after the discovery of the subsequent C+ case on site, before commencing work at the worksites. Zonal testing may be conducted** if the C+ case had been working in a specific work zone with proper TraceTogether-only SafeEntry set up at the work zone. If there are logistical challenges at the worksites to test all individuals before commencing work at the worksites, permitted enterprises may choose to **stagger the conduct of ART** one day earlier or later for groups of workers (e.g. ART D1, D4 & D7 for one group of workers and ART D2, D5 & D8 for another group of workers). The **supervised ART may also be conducted off-site** (e.g. at accommodations via virtual supervision or at appointed MOH clinics).

- d) Permitted enterprises have to **ensure that all ART results are uploaded to the Swab Registration System V2 (SRSV2) and the ART records (i.e. particulars and ART results of all personnel at the worksites) shall be kept on site** for BCA's audit. Please refer to

<https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-info> for more information on uploading ART results.

Notify BCA of any COVID-19 Case

4. Permitted enterprises shall **notify BCA immediately** at <https://go.gov.sg/bca-covid-antigen-testreport> **when they are aware of any C+ cases among their employees**, or when the ART result of any worker/visitor is positive or retested invalid. In accordance with MOH's guidelines, **ART-positive and re-tested invalid personnel are encouraged to self-isolate for at least 72 hours and should visit a Swab and Send Home (SASH) clinic to be assessed if they feel unwell during isolation.**

Worksites with Potential Clusters

5. For worksites with larger clusters, special testing operations may be conducted at the affected worksite, with MOH's guidance. BCA/MOH will contact such affected worksites separately. The changes in the management protocol is outlined in Table 1 under Annex A.

Securing Supply of ART Test Kits

6. Permitted enterprises are encouraged now to procure and secure sufficient ART kits for their worksites to prepare for the new management protocol. The ART test kits available at the worksite should be sufficient for the permitted enterprise to conduct one to two full cycles of ART testing (i.e. D1, D4 & D7) for everyone working at the worksite. Subsequently, the Government will replenish these additional ART kits up to 20 Dec 2021. Permitted enterprises may request for ART kits replenishment at <https://go.gov.sg/bcaswoartkits>. More information on the procurement and replenishment of ART test kits may be found in Table 2 under Annex A.

Potential Risk of COVID-19 Spread at Worksites- Revised SMM Requirements at Worksites

7. In the recent worksite cases, it was found that the use of shared facilities and possible congregation of workers at such facilities potentially increased the risk of transmission at worksites. Hence, to minimise this risk, BCA will be revising the COVID-Safe Worksite requirements set out in Table 1 below for worksites with restart applications after 1 Oct 2021. Please see Annex B for details to be submitted.

Table 1 – Reduced Capacity for Shared Facilities

<p><u>Additional</u> requirements for permitted enterprises who submit first application to BCA on Restart of Construction Works & Supply Works after 01 October 2021</p>	<p>a) Permitted enterprises shall ensure that the number of persons using canteens, rest areas and toilets at the worksites does not exceed 50% of maximum capacity of the facilities at any one time:</p> <p>I. Maximum capacity is defined as the maximum number of people who are able to use the facility while maintaining the minimum 1m safe distancing with other persons at the facility.</p> <p>b) Permitted enterprises shall display the maximum capacity of each canteen, rest area and toilet at site at a visible place outside each facility.</p>
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Good Practices Encouraged at Worksites

8. In addition to the requirement set out in Paragraph 7, permitted enterprises are encouraged to take the additional steps for their worksites as shown in Table 2, to further reduce the risk of work disruption.

Table 2

Good Practices Encouraged at Worksites	<p>a) Deploy a minimum of 1 number of TraceTogether only-SafeEntry (TT-SE) points for every 500 workers deployed daily to site to reduce waiting time and avoid congregation of workers at the site entrance. For illustration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day ≤ 500: 1 TT-SE pointII. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day > 500 but $\leq 1,000$: 2 TT-SE pointsIII. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day > 1000 but $\leq 1,500$: 3 TT-SE points, etc. <p>b) Use physical separation barriers to separate the zones used by different segregated teams at shared facilities for mask off activities to avoid intermingling and keep the allowable capacity at 50% of maximum capacity in each zone;</p> <p>c) For smaller worksites with space constraints, the main contractor may plan for staggered usage to ensure no mixing of personnel across teams during the use of shared facilities and are to include that in the SMM plans as part of their restart application to BCA;</p> <p>d) Ensure staggered times for entry and exit points for different teams. If there are workers waiting at the entrances or exits of the worksite, workers within a team must be at least two (2) metre apart from any worker of another team;</p> <p>e) Ensure staggered timings of lunch and other breaks for different teams; and</p>
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	f) Ensure staggered use of shared facilities e.g. canteen, toilets to ensure no mixing across teams (i.e. segregated teams shall not be using same facilities at the same time).
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Enforcement Action

9. BCA takes a serious view of any breach of COVID-19 regulations. We will take action against permitted enterprises which are found to be non-compliant with COVID-19 regulations, including where the non-compliance with the management protocol set out in Paragraph 3 is a non-compliance with the COVID-19 regulations. This includes the issuance of Stop Work Order (SWO) or composition fine up to \$2,000.

Working Together and Keeping Safe

10. BCA seeks the cooperation of the industry to ensure strict compliance with safe management measures and keep tighter controls at worksites. **Permitted enterprises shall ensure that the latest Vaccination or Regular Test (VoRT)/Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) and ART regime (<https://go.gov.sg/bca-circular-vort-revised>) is resumed once the management protocol set out in Paragraph 3 is completed.** Let us work together to keep our worksites safe.

11. Please disseminate the contents of the circular to your members.

12. Do subscribe to BCA's Telegram Channel – t.me/BCASingapore for the latest updates, and refer to the BCA Website – www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19 for further information. If you require any clarifications, please write to us via [BCA's online feedback form](#). As we anticipate a surge in queries, we seek your understanding that there may be some delays in our replies.

13. Thank you.

Yours faithfully

DARREN LIM
GROUP DIRECTOR
AUDIT AND INSPECTION GROUP
for COMMISSIONER OF BUILDING CONTROL

Annex A

Table 1: Summary on COVID-19 Management Approach for Construction Worksites and Supply Works Premises

	NEW Management Protocol (From 1 st Oct 2021)
Notification of COVID-19 Positive (C+) Case(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH will issue High-Risk Alerts/High-Risk Warnings to the close contacts of the C+ case • Permitted enterprises who are subcontractors/firms listed under Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works shall notify main builders of worksites if their C+ employee(s) have visited the worksite in the 7 days prior to the COVID-19 diagnosis • BCA will notify permitted enterprises¹ when there is a C+ case
Disinfection Requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes, permitted enterprises are still required to submit the disinfection report to BCA at https://go.gov.sg/bca-covid19-compliance-report
Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) Requirement on top of the current VoRT/RRT regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted enterprise to perform ART every 3 days for a period of 7 days from the day immediately after date of discovery of the C+ case at worksite for all personnel before commencing work at worksite (i.e. ART D1, D4 & D7), and the process repeats for every subsequent C+ case at worksite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zonal testing may be conducted if the C+ case had been working in a specific work zone with proper TraceTogether-only SafeEntry set up at the work zone - Supervised self-swab at any location/off-site is acceptable (e.g. at accommodations or appointed MOH clinics) - ART can be conducted at any time of the day before commencing work at the worksites - Staggered implementation of ART one day earlier or later for groups of workers (e.g. ART D1, D4 & D7 for one group of workers and ART D2, D5 & D8 for another group of workers) or at different locations (e.g. accommodations via supervised virtual means, dormitories) is allowed - Permitted enterprises have to ensure that all ART results of persons at the worksites are uploaded to the Swab Registration System V2 (SRSV2). Please refer to https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-info for more information on uploading ART results - ART records (i.e. particulars and ART results of all personnel) shall be kept on site for BCA's audit
Safe Management Measures (SMM) Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted enterprises are encouraged to review their SMM plans. Permitted enterprises do not need to submit the SMM plans to BCA.
Stop Work Order (SWO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement action, including issuance of SWOs, may be taken against permitted enterprises who do not comply with COVID-19 regulations.

¹ Permitted enterprises are main builders of construction worksites and companies managing construction Supply Works Premises that have been approved to resume work

Table 2: Summary on Securing Supply of ART Test Kits for Construction Worksites and Supply Works Premises

For <u>Main Contractors</u> of Construction Worksites and <u>Companies</u> managing Construction Supply Works Premises
Procuring of ART test kits
<p>Main contractor/companies which have insufficient ART test kits should procure the test kits from major pharmacies and distributors in Singapore.</p> <p>Please find the list of ART test kits authorised for use in Singapore at https://go.gov.sg/bca-hsa-art-list.</p>
Replenishment of ART Test Kits when a worker diagnosed with COVID-19 is detected at the worksite
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register orders for fundable kits after the completion of ART testing (D7/D8) through the registration form https://go.gov.sg/bcaswoartkits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The following details must be submitted to BCA for validation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The start and end date of the ART testing; and 2. A list of workers who have undergone the ART testing • Order for number of workers/visitors entering project site (based on individual project reference number) and ART test results uploaded with project reference number indicated under “Remarks” section in SRSV2. Please make sure that you are applying as a main contractor for the project or on behalf of the company managing construction supply premises. Construction projects should have obtained BCA's approval to resume works (via Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works) and has yet to obtain TOP. • Number of test kits² to be replenished should not exceed the number declared to BCA via Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works.

² Test kits that yield invalid results are not fundable (i.e. no replenishment will be issued)

Annex B – Sample of illustration of additional Safe-worksite criteria to be submitted in the BCA restart application (for first application submitted on and after 1 Oct 2021)


At Canteens, Rest Areas and Toilets



To display at visible location at shared facilities:
Maximum Capacity XX Pax
Allowable Capacity XX Pax

Area = XX m²

No. of TT-SE entry points



To display:

1. Maximum number of workers entering site daily = XXX
2. Show layout plan with indication of locations

