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COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES) ACT 2020
(ACT 14 OF 2020)

COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES)
(RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS — CONTROL ORDER)
REGULATIONS 2021

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In exercise of the powers conferred by section 34(1) of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020, the Minister for Health makes the following Regulations:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations are the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Religious Gatherings — Control Order) Regulations 2021 and come into operation on 12 July 2021.

Application

2. These Regulations apply to and only in relation to any religious gathering that is held or conducted —

- (a) on or after 12 July 2021; and
- (b) in a place of worship, or anywhere else in Singapore which is not a home.

Definitions

3.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“approved test” has the meaning given by the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations 2021 (G.N. No. S 273/2021);

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

“building” includes part of a building;

[Deleted by S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

“COVIDSAFE capacity”, for any venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place, means the maximum number of individuals which the venue may accommodate if all the following are complied with:

- (a) the segregation requirement;
- (b) the physical distancing requirement;

(c) regulations 10B(1)(k) and 12 of, and the First Schedule to the Main Control Order (where applicable), as if the venue were permitted premises and every worshipper at the religious gathering were a customer;

“crew”, in relation to a live performance at a religious gathering, means an individual who is employed in connection with the staging of a performance other than as a performer in the live performance, whether under a contract of employment by or a contract for service with, any person staging the live performance and whether a religious worker or volunteer;

“crowd management period”, for a religious gathering at a venue, means —

(a) subject to paragraph (b), the period —

(i) starting 60 minutes before the time that the religious gathering is stated will begin daily on any publicity material relating to the religious gathering; and

(ii) ending 60 minutes after the time that the religious gathering is stated will end daily on any publicity material relating to the religious gathering; or

(b) for a religious gathering to mark or commemorate one or more days of religious significance (whether or not also a public holiday) and for which there is no publicity material described in paragraph (a), the period —

(i) starting 60 minutes before the first time in the day or each day (as the case may be) the venue is open to worshippers to attend the religious gathering; and

(ii) ending 60 minutes after the time in the day or each day (as the case may be) the venue closes admission to the worshippers to attend the religious gathering;

“defined activity” has the meaning given by regulation 13(4);

“enclosed space” means an area that is substantially enclosed by a roof and at least 2 walls, whether or not the roof or walls is or are permanent or temporary or open or closed, such as a room;

“home” means any of the following in Singapore:

- (a) a building that is used, constructed or adapted on a parcel of land solely for occupation as a single dwelling on the land, and includes any garden or yard appurtenant to that building and within that same parcel of land;
- (b) an apartment or unit, or a flat or lot, in a subdivided building that is used, constructed or adapted solely for occupation as a complete and separate dwelling;
- (c) a self-contained room, suite or like accommodation in a hotel or hostel for tourist, visitor or other temporary accommodation of guests of the hotel or residents of the hostel;
- (d) a room in any boarding premises used, constructed or adapted solely to provide accommodation —
 - (i) for employees or workers in connection with their employment or work; or
 - (ii) for boarders or lodgers,but not a room in such premises provided only with shared facilities like a communal living room, bathroom, laundry or kitchen;

“live performance”, in relation to a religious gathering, means any, or a combination of any, performance by performers in person in the venue where the religious gathering takes place in the presence of an audience of worshippers in the same venue, such as —

- (a) a performance (including an improvisation) of a script for a film, play or television, a dumb show or choreography if described in writing in the form in

which the show or choreography is to be presented, or other dramatic work, including such a performance given with the use of puppets;

- (b) a performance (including an improvisation) of a musical work (whether vocal or instrumental);
- (c) a performance of a dance (including a weapon dance);
- (d) a performance of legerdemain or magic;
- (e) a performance of an expression of folklore; or
- (f) a live art performance,

but excludes public speaking at a religious gathering;

“Main Control Order” means the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Control Order) Regulations 2020 (G.N. No. S 254/2020);

“non-worshipper”, in relation to a religious gathering taking place or to take place in a venue, means an individual who is lawfully present in the venue during a crowd management period of the religious gathering —

- (a) to deliver goods or provide services connected with the organising of the religious gathering by the organiser;
- (b) to monitor and ensure the compliance, by worshippers and any other individuals present during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, with the requirements in these Regulations or any other Control Order;
- (c) to execute an order of a court or a direction given by or on behalf of a public officer or a public body in exercise of a power under any written law; or
- (d) to render help in the event of an emergency at the religious gathering;

“nuptial event” means —

- (a) a ceremony at which a single marriage is solemnized according to proceedings prescribed by written law and without virtual participation; or
- (b) a wedding;

“occupier”, for a venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place in, means a person who has —

- (a) the charge, management or control of the venue, either on the person’s own account or as agent of another person, during the crowd management period of the religious gathering; or
- (b) the use temporarily or otherwise of the venue during that period for the purpose of the religious gathering;

“organiser”, for a religious gathering, means a person who is responsible (whether fully or substantially) for the organising of the religious gathering;

“other Control Order” means any of the following:

- (a) the Main Control Order;
- (b) the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Foreign Employee Dormitories — Control Order) Regulations 2020 (G.N. No. S 781/2020);
- (c) the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Performances and Other Activities — Control Order) Regulations 2020 (G.N. No. S 927/2020);
- (d) the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Sporting Events and Activities — Control Order) Regulations 2021 (G.N. No. S 277/2021);
- (e) the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Major Business Events — Control Order) Regulations 2021 (G.N. No. S 278/2021);

“performer”, in a live performance, means —

- (a) an actor, a model or a dancer;

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- (b) a singer, musician or member of an orchestra;
 - (c) an acrobat or a stunt performer; or
 - (d) any other individual who contributes in person to the sounds, movements or visual elements (or any combination thereof) of the performance,

and if the performance includes a live performance of a musical work (whether vocal or instrumental), includes the conductor;

“place of worship” means any place —

- (a) that is consecrated or dedicated generally or specifically, or is associated with or regularly used, for the conduct of religious services (such as a mosque, surau, temple, church, cathedral, chapel, sanctuary or synagogue); and
- (b) the use of which as a place of worship is not a breach of planning control under the Planning Act (Cap. 232),

but excludes any individual’s home or any part of the common property of any subdivided building used (in whole or part) for residential purposes;

“private religious gathering” means a gathering of individuals that —

- (a) is for the purpose of allowing worshippers to engage in an act of worship at a religious service;
- (b) is not open to attendance by worshippers in general, even if held in a place of worship; and
- (c) is not a nuptial event, funeral event or funerary memorial event;

“prohibited religious gathering” means a religious gathering of worshippers the total number of which, at any time during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, is in excess of the worshipper capacity applicable to that type of religious gathering;

“public speaking”, in relation to a religious gathering, means any of the following activities undertaken by a religious worker or volunteer during the religious gathering:

- (a) the giving or engaging in any lecture, talk, address or sermon;
- (b) the engaging in any reading, recitation or delivery of a literary work of religious significance,

but excludes any such activity occurring as part of a media conference within the meaning of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Performances and Other Activities — Control Order) Regulations 2020 or a business event (or part thereof) within the meaning of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Major Business Events — Control Order) Regulations 2021;

“publicity material”, for a religious gathering, means an advertisement (online or otherwise) or any other publicity material promoting the religious gathering;

“religious gathering” means a gathering of individuals that is for the purpose of allowing worshippers to engage in an act of worship at a religious service, but does not include any of the following gatherings:

- (a) a nuptial event, funeral event or funerary memorial event involving a religious service;
- (b) a gathering of individuals to provide or receive (or both) lessons or teaching based wholly on a religious belief, religious opinion or religious affiliation, or a course of instruction or training to become a member of a religious order or in the duties of a minister of religion;
- (c) a business event (or part thereof) within the meaning of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) (Major Business Events — Control Order) Regulations 2021;

“religious gathering for congregational worship” means a religious gathering of at least 5 worshippers who arrange to

meet, or intentionally attend, in person for a common purpose of engaging in an act of worship at a religious service together or at about the same time, either —

- (a) consisting substantially of self-prayer or self-worship rituals undertaken without following an express programme or an order of religious service that is fixed in advance; or
- (b) following an express programme or an order of religious service that is fixed in advance,

but is not a private religious gathering;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

“religious service” means a ceremony or rite, or an observance or a worship, sermon or service, based wholly on a religious belief, religious opinion or religious affiliation;

“religious worker” means any of the following individuals:

- (a) a minister of religion, such as an imam or asatizah, a mufti, pastor, bishop, rabbi, priest or reverend;
- (b) a full-time member of a religious order, such as a monk or nun;
- (c) a full-time employee who is assisting any individual mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) in connection with the conduct of any ceremony or rite or an observance or a worship, sermon or service at a religious gathering, including by preparing food or offerings or playing any musical instrument;

“room” means an area within a building that has a ceiling and is fully enclosed on all sides;

“segregation cohort” has the meaning given by regulation 6(2)(a);

“segregation requirement” has the meaning given by regulation 6(1) or (2);

“stage area”, for a live performance in a venue where a religious gathering is taking place —

- (a) means such area within the venue as is designed to be used by performers in such a live performance to perform on or in; and
- (b) includes the backstage, a dressing room, a projection or lighting suite, a sound booth, an orchestra pit or a flying scenery or other similar theatrical prop or infrastructure,

but excludes any part of the worshippers’ area in that venue;

“unenclosed space” means a space that is wholly outdoors or is a space other than an enclosed space;

“unmasked”, in relation to an individual, means to be not wearing a mask and includes an individual wearing a face shield in lieu of a mask;

“venue”, for a religious gathering, means an enclosed space or unenclosed space where the religious gathering takes place or is to take place, whether or not the space is or is within a place of worship;

“volunteer”, in relation to a religious gathering, means an individual at the religious gathering in person —

- (a) who —
 - (i) volunteers to assist any religious worker conducting any part of the religious service, the conduct of which is the purpose of the religious gathering; or
 - (ii) is otherwise providing voluntary services in connection with the religious gathering, such as singing or playing of musical instruments; and
[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]
- (b) who is not a worshipper at the same religious gathering;

“wedding” means an organised gathering of individuals in connection with the celebration of a single marriage, being a marriage in respect of which no organised gathering has earlier taken place in connection with the celebration of that marriage;

“worshipper”, in relation to a religious gathering, means —

- (a) an individual who attends in person to engage in an act of worship at a religious service, the conduct of which is the purpose of the religious gathering; or
- (b) an individual who has a lawful reason to enter or remain in the place where the religious gathering is held but is not any of the following:
 - (i) an individual in paragraph (a);
 - (ii) a non-worshipper;
 - (iii) a volunteer at the religious gathering;
 - (iv) a religious worker in pursuit of his or her vocation as a religious worker at the religious gathering, whether or not as an employee of any person;

“worshipper capacity” has the meaning given by regulation 5;

“worshippers’ area” means an area (sheltered or otherwise) within the venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place, that is where worshippers are admitted to attend and pray, worship or otherwise take part in any other way in the religious gathering, but excludes any entry and exit place.

(2) Unless expressly provided otherwise in these Regulations, any word or expression in these Regulations that is defined in the Main Control Order has the meaning given to it by the Main Control Order.

(3) Nothing in these Regulations prevent the consumption of food, drink or medicine in an emergency where the food, drink or medicine is necessary to preserve life or prevent injury or further injury.

(4) For the purposes of these Regulations, an individual is treated as undergoing or having undergone an approved test in the same manner

as under the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations 2021.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Physical distancing

4. The physical distancing requirement means keeping a distance of at least one metre —

(a) between every member of any cohort of 5 or fewer worshippers at a religious gathering taking place in a venue from —

(i) any other worshipper at the religious gathering in that venue who is alone; or

(ii) any other worshipper at the religious gathering in that venue who is a member of another cohort of such worshippers; or

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(b) between any 2 individuals in the venue, in all other cases.

Worshipper capacities

5.—(1) For a religious gathering conducted for a congregational worship in a venue that is or is within a place of worship, the worshipper capacity is —

(a) 500; or

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(b) the COVIDSAFE capacity of the venue, if it is lesser in number than sub-paragraph (a).

(2) For a religious gathering conducted for a congregational worship in a venue that is not and not within a place of worship, the worshipper capacity is —

(a) 50; or

(b) the COVIDSAFE capacity of the venue, if it is lesser in number than sub-paragraph (a).

(3) For a private religious gathering taking place in a venue, the worshipper capacity is —

(a) 5; or

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(b) the COVIDSAFE capacity of the venue, if it is lesser in number than sub-paragraph (a).

Segregation requirements and segregation cohort

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the segregation requirement for a venue where a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, is the requirement —

(a) to establish for the religious gathering, one or more segregation zones in the worshippers' area in the venue, with each zone providing for not more than 50 individuals whether seated, standing or both;

(b) to clearly delineate the boundaries of each segregation zone in a substantially unbroken manner by means of any of the following:

(i) any wall or other non-porous partition or screen that is 1.8 metres or taller measured from the floor of the part of the worshippers' area;

(ii) any stanchion with barrier rope or tape or other similar physical barrier, that is at least 3 metres away from the boundary of another segregation zone;

(c) to allocate each worshipper of the religious gathering to not more than one segregation zone for the religious gathering, and not more than one religious gathering at the same time;

(d) to ensure that any worshipper who is allocated to a segregation zone for the religious gathering does not, during the crowd management period of that religious gathering, enter or remain within —

(i) another segregation zone for that same religious gathering; or

(ii) the venue where another religious gathering is taking place concurrently and in the vicinity of the venue where the firstmentioned religious gathering takes place or is to take place; and

(e) to establish and apply procedures or controls so as —

(i) to ensure that a worshipper allocated to a segregation zone for the religious gathering does not physically interact with another worshipper allocated to another segregation zone for that religious gathering, when they enter or leave each other's allocated segregation zone; and

(ii) to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 between worshippers allocated to different segregation zones.

(2) For a religious gathering where worshippers engage substantially in self-prayer or self-worship rituals without any express programme or order of religious service that is fixed in advance, the segregation requirement for a venue where such a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, is the requirement —

(a) to allocate worshippers at the religious gathering into segregation cohorts of not more than 50 worshippers each;

(b) to allocate each worshipper at the religious gathering to not more than one segregation cohort for the religious gathering;

(c) to allow not more than one segregation cohort to enter the worshippers' area to attend the religious gathering at the venue at any time;

(d) to ensure that any worshipper allocated to a segregation cohort for the religious gathering does not, during the crowd management period of that religious gathering, join another segregation cohort for that same religious gathering; and

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- (e) to establish and apply procedures or controls so as —
- (i) to ensure that a worshipper allocated to a segregation cohort does not physically interact with another worshipper allocated to another segregation cohort when they enter or leave the worshippers' area; and
 - (ii) to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 between worshippers allocated to different segregation cohorts of worshippers.

Contact tracing requirement

7.—(1) The contact tracing requirement for a venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place is the requirement to establish and apply, so far as is reasonably practicable, (jointly with another or otherwise) appropriate procedures and controls specially relating to the religious gathering that enable or facilitate contact tracing of every worshipper and non-worshipper who enters the venue.

(2) The contact tracing requirement in these Regulations is in addition to the requirement in regulation 10B(1)(c) of the Main Control Order.

Entry control and enhanced entry control

8.—(1) The basic entry controls for a venue where a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, means —

- (a) to establish and apply appropriate procedures and controls (jointly with another or otherwise) that ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that every individual about to enter the venue is assessed, before entering, to determine whether he or she is a symptomatic case;
- (b) to refuse entry to the venue by any individual —
 - (i) whom the occupier of the venue knows or has reason to believe is a symptomatic case;

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

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- (ii) whom the occupier of the venue knows or has reason to believe is subject to a movement control measure;
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]
 - (iii) who refuses to comply with any measure mentioned in sub-paragraph (a); or
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]
 - (iv) who refuses to comply with any contact tracing measure established or applied by the occupier in order to comply with the contact tracing requirement; and
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]
- (c) to refuse entry to the venue by any individual whom the occupier of the venue knows or has reason to believe to be seeking entry for any purpose other than as a worshipper or non-worshipper.

(2) The enhanced entry controls with respect to a venue where a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, means a requirement to establish and maintain, during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, all reasonably practicable procedures and protocols that ensure that only the following enter or remain within the venue during that crowd management period:

- (a) a worshipper with a cleared status;
- (b) a worshipper who is an uncleared junior, unless there are also present, in the venue during that crowd management period, other worshippers who are uncleared juniors which are not below the maximum permissible number of uncleared juniors for the venue during that crowd management period.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(3) The maximum permissible number of uncleared juniors for a venue during the crowd management period of the religious gathering taking place in that venue is 20% of the total number of worshippers

present or who may be present within the venue during that crowd management period, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Cleaning requirement

9. The cleaning requirement for a venue in which a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, means the requirement —

- (a) to ensure that any common area, furniture or fittings within the venue which are not for the exclusive use of any worshipper, religious worker, volunteer or non-worshipper (or any of them in combination) in the venue, or are used by any of these individuals to move through the venue (commonly called high-touch places and surfaces) —
 - (i) are periodically cleaned and disinfected within each day, following appropriate procedures and at an appropriate frequency so as to minimise the transmission of COVID-19 from the use of the same area by several such individuals at the same time or different times; and
 - (ii) are, as far as is reasonably practicable, at all times provided with easily accessible disinfecting agents like hand sanitisers, disinfectant sprays, paper towels and wipes, for the free use of such individuals in the venue;
- (b) to ensure that any crockery, utensils, vessels or other equipment which is shared or may be shared by, or used or may be used by or on, more than one worshipper, religious worker or volunteer at the religious gathering (or any of them in combination) during the religious gathering —
 - (i) are periodically cleaned and disinfected after each use, following appropriate procedures and at an appropriate frequency so as to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 from the sharing or common and continuous touching of the crockery, utensils, vessels or equipment by or on several such individuals; and

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- (ii) are not easily accessible for use by more than one such individual (or any combination of them) at the same time or different times, by applying appropriate procedures and controls that minimise such sharing or use and the physical interaction between these individuals;
 - (c) to ensure that a reasonable period of time elapses —
 - (i) since the end of an earlier religious gathering to allow for cleaning as described in paragraph (a) or (b) or both, in between the earlier religious gathering and the start of the next religious gathering; or
 - (ii) if the religious gathering is a series of meetings, since the end of an earlier meeting to allow for cleaning as described in paragraph (a) or (b) or both, in between the earlier meeting and the start of the next meeting; and
 - (d) to ensure that the venue is cleaned and disinfected at the end of daily business, and before re-opening after any closure of business or undertaking (voluntarily or otherwise) at the venue.

PART 2

BASIC RULES

Prohibited religious gatherings

10.—(1) A person must not —

- (a) allow a prohibited religious gathering to take place in an enclosed space or unenclosed space that the person is an occupier of; or
- (b) organise a prohibited religious gathering,

which the person knows or ought reasonably to know is a prohibited religious gathering.

(2) An individual must not arrange to meet, or intentionally attend, in person to take part in a prohibited religious gathering which the

individual knows or ought reasonably to know is a prohibited religious gathering.

General compliance rules for other religious gatherings

11.—(1) A person must not allow a religious gathering to take place in any enclosed space or unenclosed space of which the person is an occupier except in accordance with the requirements in Division 1 of Part 3.

(2) A person must not organise a religious gathering to take place in any enclosed space or unenclosed space except in accordance with the requirements in Division 2 of Part 3 and in Part 4.

PART 3

SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS

Division 1 — Occupier

Worshipper capacities

12.—(1) An occupier of a venue where a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that the total number of worshippers who are or may be allowed to be present within the worshippers' area of the venue at any time during a crowd management period of the religious gathering, does not exceed the worshipper capacity applicable to the type of religious gathering.

(2) To avoid doubt, infants and children of any age are to be counted for the purposes of this regulation.

(3) This regulation applies despite regulation 10B(1) or 13F(3) of the Main Control Order.

(4) However, this requirement is subject to regulation 13 where it is a religious gathering for congregational worship that takes place, or is to take place, in a venue within a place of worship.

Place of worship maximum capacity, etc.

13.—(1) This regulation applies where —

- (a) a defined activity, or a combination of defined activities, takes place on any day within a place of worship;
- (b) a religious gathering for congregational worship takes place on the same day in a venue within the same place of worship; and
- (c) the defined activity or a combination of defined activities mentioned in sub-paragraph (a), and the religious gathering mentioned in sub-paragraph (b), take place at or about the same time that same day.

(2) Despite regulation 12(1) and regulations 10B(1), 13E and 13F(3) of the Main Control Order, an occupier of the place of worship concerned must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at any time during a crowd management period of the religious gathering for congregational worship mentioned in paragraph (1)(b) —

- (a) the total number of worshippers who are or may be allowed to be present within the place of worship for the purposes of that religious gathering for congregational worship, does not exceed —

- (i) 500; or

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

- (ii) the COVIDSAFE capacity of the venue where the religious gathering take place, if it is lesser in number than in sub-paragraph (i); and

- (b) the total number of individuals engaged in the defined activity or activities does not exceed —

- (i) 500; or

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

- (ii) the COVIDSAFE capacity of the respective places where these activities take place, if it is lesser in number than in sub-paragraph (i).

(3) *[Deleted by S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]*

(4) In this regulation, “defined activity” means any of the following:

- (a) a nuptial event involving a religious service;
- (b) a funeral event involving a religious service;
- (c) a funerary memorial event involving a religious service;
- (d) a lesson or teaching based wholly on a religious belief, religious opinion or religious affiliation, where permitted under Part 5 of the First Schedule to the Main Control Order;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

- (e) a course of instruction or training to become a member of a religious order or in the duties of a minister of religion;
- (f) a private religious gathering.

(5) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(b) —

- (a) every student, teacher, supervisor or an instructor of a class where a lesson or teaching mentioned in paragraph (4)(d), or a course of instruction or training mentioned in paragraph (4)(e), is conducted must be counted; and
- (b) any religious worker, volunteer, celebrant or other individual employed or engaged to work or undertake official duties for the purposes of a defined activity mentioned in paragraph (4)(a), (b), (c) or (f) are not to be counted.

(6) To avoid doubt, infants and children of any age are to be counted for the purposes of this regulation.

(7) Without limiting regulation 17, an occupier of a place of worship must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that no food or drink is consumed —

- (a) by any individual;

- (b) within the place of worship; and
- (c) in connection with any defined activity taking place within that place of worship,

except and only to the extent that consumption is part of an act of worship by the individual.

No unmasking permitted

14.—(1) An occupier of a venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at all times during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, every individual who is present in the venue where the religious gathering is taking place wears a mask.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to or in relation to an individual who —

- (a) is authorised under regulation 22, 25 or 31 or any other Control Order to then not wear a mask; or
[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]
[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(b) has a reasonable excuse to be then unmasked.

Other requirements for occupier of religious gathering venue

15.—(1) An occupier of a venue where a religious gathering takes place, or is to take place, must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures during the crowd management period of the religious gathering —

- (a) to comply with the following with respect to the venue where the religious gathering takes place or is to take place:
 - (i) the physical distancing requirement;
 - (ii) the contact tracing requirement;
 - (iii) the basic entry controls;
 - (iv) the applicable segregation requirement;

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- (v) the cleaning requirement;
 - (b) to minimise any physical interaction between the following during the crowd management period of the religious gathering:
 - (i) any worshipper at the religious gathering;
 - (ii) any non-worshipper within the venue where the religious gathering takes place or is to take place; and
 - (c) to ensure that every worshipper in the worshippers' area of the venue is at all times alone, or in a cohort that consists of —
 - (i) 5 or fewer worshippers each with a cleared status;
 - (ii) 5 or fewer worshippers who are uncleared juniors all from the same household; or
 - (iii) 5 or fewer worshippers in total, consisting of one or more uncleared juniors (all from the same household) and other worshippers with a cleared status.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) In addition to paragraph (1), an occupier of a venue where a religious gathering takes place or is to take place must establish and maintain, or cause to be established and maintained, during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, enhanced entry controls with respect to the religious gathering where the venue is a restricted place within the meaning of the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations 2021.

Division 2 — Organiser

No audience participation, etc.

16.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures —

- (a) to ensure no audience participation during the crowd management period of the religious gathering;

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- (b) to ensure that any live performance or public speaking during the religious gathering is carried out in accordance with Part 4; and
 - (c) to minimise any physical interaction during the crowd management period of the religious gathering between —
 - (i) any religious worker or volunteer whose principal purpose at the religious gathering is to preside at, speak or otherwise take charge of any ceremony or rite, an observance or a worship, sermon or service conducted, or to be conducted, at the religious gathering; and
 - (ii) any other worshipper.

(2) In paragraph (1)(a), “audience participation”, for a religious gathering, does not include any of the following by a worshipper when the worshipper is seated or standing in the worshippers’ area of the venue where the religious gathering is taking place or is to take place:

- (a) any oral response given directly to a call to worship (in any form) given by a religious worker during any ceremony or rite, an observance or a worship, sermon or service conducted at the religious gathering, without any accompanying verbal exhortation, singing or whistling;
- (b) any applause or approval expressed by handclapping without any accompanying verbal exhortations, singing or whistling.

(3) An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure no singing by any worshipper during the crowd management period of the religious gathering.

No food or drink

17. An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that no food or drink is consumed —

- (a) by any individual; and

- (b) at the worshippers' area where the religious gathering takes place,

except and only to the extent that consumption is a necessary part of an act of worship by the individual.

No unmasking permitted

18.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at all times during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, every individual as follows who is present in the venue where the religious gathering is taking place, wears a mask:

- (a) a worshipper;

- (b) a religious worker;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

- (c) a volunteer;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

- (d) a non-worshipper.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to or in relation to an individual who —

- (a) is authorised under these Regulations or any other Control Order to then not wear a mask; or

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

- (b) has a reasonable excuse to be then unmasked.

(3) However, this regulation is subject to Part 4 in the case of a religious gathering that involves any live performance or public speaking by a religious worker or a volunteer at the venue where the religious gathering takes place.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Division 3 — Worshipper

Mask wearing

19.—(1) Every individual as follows who is present in the venue where the religious gathering is taking place, must wear a mask

during the crowd management period of the religious gathering taking place in the venue:

(a) a worshipper;

(b) a religious worker;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

(c) a volunteer;

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

(d) a non-worshipper.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not prevent an individual to be unmasked where he or she —

(a) is authorised under these Regulations or any other Control Order to then not wear a mask; or

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(b) has a reasonable excuse to be then unmasked.

Cooperating with occupier of religious gathering venue, etc.

20. Every worshipper present in a venue in which a religious gathering is taking or is to take place must, during the crowd management period of the religious gathering, cooperate with —

(a) the occupier of that venue; and

(b) the organiser of the religious gathering,

to enable the occupier and organiser to comply with the respective requirements of the occupier and organiser under these Regulations in relation to the religious gathering.

PART 4

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVE PERFORMANCE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING AT RELIGIOUS GATHERING

Application of this Part

21.—(1) This Part applies only in relation to a religious gathering that involves any live performance or public speaking.

(2) The requirements in this Part must be complied with at all times during the following period of any such religious gathering (called in this Part the period of the religious gathering):

- (a) subject to sub-paragraph (b), the period —
 - (i) starting the time that the religious gathering is stated will begin daily on any publicity material relating to the religious gathering; and
 - (ii) ending at the time that the religious gathering is stated will end daily on any publicity material relating to the religious gathering;
- (b) for a religious gathering to mark or commemorate one or more days of religious significance (whether or not also a public holiday) and for which there is no publicity material described in sub-paragraph (a), the period —
 - (i) starting the first time in the day or each day (as the case may be) the venue is open to worshippers to attend the religious gathering; and
 - (ii) ending at the time in the day or each day (as the case may be) the venue closes admission to worshippers to attend the religious gathering.

Division 1 — Unmasking allowance

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

Maximum number of individuals who may be unmasked

22.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering taking place in a venue must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that there is, at any time during the period of the religious gathering, a total of not more than 10 individuals in the venue who are unmasked because they are either engaged in public speaking or performing in a live performance at that religious gathering.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) To avoid doubt, an individual who is authorised under any other Control Order to not wear a mask or has a reasonable excuse to be unmasked is not to be counted for the purposes of this regulation.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Division 2 — Public speaking

Physical arrangements

23. An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that at all times during the period of the religious gathering every religious worker or volunteer engaged in public speaking during that period is, at all times when so engaged —

- (a) seated or standing;
- (b) at least one metre away from any other religious worker or volunteer with whom the public speaking is or is to be undertaken jointly at the same religious gathering; and
- (c) at least 3 metres away from any worshipper, non-worshipper or other individual present in the venue where the religious gathering is taking place.

Public speaker duties

24.—(1) A religious worker or volunteer may unmask when and only to the extent necessary to engage in public speaking during a religious gathering.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) A religious worker or volunteer who is engaged in public speaking during the religious gathering —

- (a) must at all times be at least one metre away from any other religious worker or volunteer with whom the public speaking is or is to be undertaken jointly at the same religious gathering; and

- (b) must at all times be at least 3 metres away from any worshipper, non-worshipper or other individual present in the venue where the religious gathering is taking place.

Unmasking only for public speaking

25.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that —

- (a) every religious worker or volunteer engaged in public speaking during the period of the religious gathering is not unmasked for a time longer than when so engaged in public speaking; and
- (b) subject to regulation 22, there is, at any time during that period, a total of not more than 10 religious workers or volunteers who are unmasked because they are engaged in public speaking.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) To avoid doubt, an individual who is authorised under any other Control Order to not wear a mask or has a reasonable excuse to be unmasked is not to be counted for the purposes of this regulation.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Division 3 — Live performance

Prohibited live performances

26. An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance in the venue where the religious gathering takes place must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that none of the following performances take place in the presence of an audience of worshippers in that venue:

- (a) a circus entertainment;
- (b) a game show or quiz show;
- (c) a variety act or similar presentation or show.

Distance between performers and worshippers

27. An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at all times when the live performance is taking place, every worshipper attending the religious gathering is at least 3 metres away from any edge of the stage area where the live performance is taking place.

Maximum number of performers

28. An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at all times when the live performance is taking place, there are within the stage area on or in which the live performance takes place, in total not more than 30 individuals who are either performers or crew or a combination of performers and crew.

Live performance requiring cleared performers and crew

28A.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance which is not a rehearsal must not organise or allow a live performance that has playing a wind musical instrument or singing as an element of the performance (whether alone or in combination with any other performance elements) unless —

- (a) every worshipper attending the religious gathering —
 - (i) has a cleared status at all times during the period of the live performance; or
 - (ii) is an uncleared junior;
- (b) every performer playing a wind musical instrument or singing (whether or not when wearing a mask) meets one of the following conditions:
 - (i) he or she has at all times during the period of the live performance, a cleared status (limited) that is current under the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations 2021;

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- (ii) he or she has a cleared status (general) that is current under the Infectious Diseases (Mass Gathering Testing for Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations 2021 and, within the period of 24 hours before the end of the period of the live performance —
- (A) he or she undergoes an approved test or approved tests; and
 - (B) the individual's test result is treated under those Regulations either as negative for SARS-CoV-2 or an atypical finding for SARS-CoV-2; and
- (c) every other performer, and every crew, has a cleared status at all times during the period of the live performance.

(2) An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must not organise or allow a live performance which is a rehearsal that has playing a wind musical instrument or singing as an element of the performance (whether alone or in combination with any other performance elements) unless every crew, and every performer (whether or not playing a wind musical instrument or singing and whether or not when wearing a mask), has a cleared status at all times during the period of the rehearsal.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Physical distancing between performers

29.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that, at all times during the period of the live performance, every performer in the live performance is —

- (a) at least one metre away from any other performer in the live performance.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

- (b) *[Deleted by S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]*

(1A) However, and without limiting regulation 28A, where any performer in the live performance does any of the following during the period of the live performance:

- (a) play a wind musical instrument;

(b) sing,

a person staging the live performance must take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that the firstmentioned performer is at all times during the period of the live performance at least 2 metres away from any other performer in the live performance.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to prevent the transient physical contact between performers or a temporary shorter distance between performers where the artistic merits of the live performance requires.

Singing and wind musical instrument performers

30. Without limiting regulation 28A, an organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must take all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that at all times during the period of the live performance, there are on or in the stage area, whether masked or unmasked —

- (a) not more than 10 performers who perform by singing, and no other performer is performing by playing a wind musical instrument;
- (b) not more than 10 performers who perform by playing a wind musical instrument, and no other performer is performing by singing; or
- (c) not more than 10 performers, some of whom perform by singing and others by playing a wind musical instrument.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

Unmasking allowed for performers

31.—(1) An organiser of a religious gathering at a venue involving a live performance must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that at all times during the period of the live performance —

- (a) there are on or in the stage area, not more than 10 performers who are unmasked because they are performing in the live performance; and

(b) every crew, and every other performer in the live performance, in the venue are each wearing a mask.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) Paragraph (1)(b) does not prevent a crew or performer to be unmasked where he or she has a reasonable excuse to be then unmasked.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(3) This regulation applies without limiting regulation 30 but is subject to regulation 22.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

No food or drink to be consumed in stage area

32. An organiser of a religious gathering involving a live performance must take, or cause to be taken, all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that no food or drink is consumed by any individual within the stage area at any time during the period of the live performance.

Crew and performer duties

33.—(1) During the period of a religious gathering involving a live performance, a crew and a performer in a live performance must not be unmasked when he or she is on or in the stage area and, for a performer, when not engaged in performing in the live performance.

[S 541/2021 wef 22/07/2021]

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the crew or performer in a live performance would otherwise be permitted under these Regulations to not wear a mask.

[S 589/2021 wef 10/08/2021]

(3) A performer in a live performance at a religious gathering in a venue must, when performing, remain as far as practicable at least 3 metres away from any worshipper attending that religious gathering when measured from any edge of the stage area where the live performance takes place.

PART 5

FINAL PROVISIONS

Interface with Main Control Order

34.—(1) The requirements specified in these Regulations are in addition to the requirements in the Main Control Order, and these Regulations prevail if, and to the extent, there is any inconsistency between these Regulations and the requirements in the Main Control Order insofar as those requirements in the Main Control Order may apply in connection with any religious gathering.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to prevent or restrict —

- (a) the Government or any public body doing or omitting to do anything in the performance of any function, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty of the Government or public body (as the case may be) under law; or
- (b) any individual acting under the authority or direction of the Government or any public body in the performance of any function, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty of the Government or public body (as the case may be) under law.

(3) Without limiting the meaning of “reasonable excuse” in section 34(7) of the Act, it is a reasonable excuse for a person doing or omitting to do any act in contravention of any provision of these Regulations if the act is done or omitted to be done in good faith and for the purpose of complying with or giving effect to —

- (a) any other written law; or
- (b) any order or requirement of the Government or a public body, or an individual mentioned in paragraph (2)(b), given in the performance of any function, the exercise of any power or the discharge of any duty of the Government or public body (as the case may be) under law.

Made on 9 July 2021.

NG HOW YUE
*Permanent Secretary
(Health Development),
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[AG/LEGIS/SL/65C/2020/24 Vol. 1]

(To be presented to Parliament under section 34(4) of the COVID-19 (Temporary Measures) Act 2020).