

30 September 2021

[Updated on 16 October 2021]

Dear Sir/Madam

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

Key Changes:

1. Paragraphs 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4 and 10 have been updated

MOH has recently revised the protocols for COVID-19 positive/positive antigen test (C+/Ag+) cases, and we would like to remind all in the construction industry to follow the new **1-2-3 protocols** outlined in MOH's [9 October News Highlights](#).

2. Paragraph on Securing Supply of ART Test Kits has been deleted.

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. **[Updated on 16 October 2021]** From 1 October 2021, industry shall implement the following management protocol:

- a) **Subcontractors/firms listed under Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works shall immediately notify main builders of worksites if their C+/Ag+ employee(s) have visited the worksite within 7 days prior to their COVID-19 diagnosis.**
- b) Permitted enterprises, upon becoming aware of C+/Ag+ cases at the worksites shall **carry out a thorough cleaning at the worksite or affected work zone(s) visited by the C+/Ag+ case(s)** in accordance with [NEA Guidelines](#).
- c) As part of the 1-2-3 protocols, individuals issued with Health Risk Warnings (HRW) as close contacts of a C+ case need to undergo ART and shall follow MOH's HRW protocol. **There is no requirement for additional ART testing for other workers working in same worksite who are not issued with HRW.** Please refer to [Annex C](#) for the summary of protocols.
- d) Trained ART supervisors appointed by the main contractor or the subcontractor have to **ensure that all supervised ART results are uploaded to the Swab Registration System V2 (SRSV2) for Singapore Citizens / Permanent Residents and FWMOMCare for work pass holders 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/Positive Antigen Test Case

4. **[Updated on 16 October 2021]** All employers shall **notify BCA immediately** at <https://go.gov.sg/bca-covid-antigen-testreport> **when they are aware of any C+ or Ag+ case(s) among their employees.**

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. <REMOVED AS INFO IS OUTDATED>

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

<p>Good Practices Encouraged at Worksites</p>	<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> <p>I. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day \leq 500: 1 TT-SE point</p> <p>II. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day $>$ 500 but \leq 1,000: 2 TT-SE points</p>
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	<p>III. Total number of workers deployed to site in a day > 1000 but ≤ 1,500: 3 TT-SE points, etc.</p> <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> <p>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).</p>
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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. **[Updated on 16 October 2021]** BCA seeks the cooperation of the industry to ensure strict compliance with safe management measures and keep tighter controls at worksites. 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 [Updated on 16 October 2021]

	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 Health Risk Warnings to the close contacts of the C+ case • Subcontractors/firms listed under Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works shall notify main builders of worksites if their C+/Ag+ 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"> • Permitted enterprises shall carry out a thorough cleaning at the worksite or affected work zone(s) visited by the C+/Ag+ case(s) in accordance with NEA Guidelines.
Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) Requirement on top of the current VoRT/RRT regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <REMOVED AS INFO IS OUTDATED>
Safe Management Measures (SMM) Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted enterprises are 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.

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

<REMOVED AS INFO IS OUTDATED>

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

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



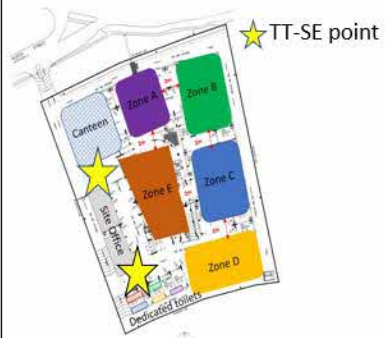
To display at visible location at shared facilities:
 Maximum Capacity XX Pax
 Allowable Capacity XX Pax

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



Annex C – Summary of MOH’s 1-2-3 Protocols

[extracted from MOH’s 9 October News Highlights]

This flowchart summarises the streamlined protocols for testing and isolation:

