

## Media Factsheet

26 September 2020

### **PROGRESSIVE EASING OF MEASURES FOR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**

The Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) will be progressively easing measures for religious activities and worship services.

From 3 October 2020, religious organisations (ROs) may further resume religious activities, while adhering to safe management measures (SMMs):

1. Increase in limit for congregational and other worship services, subject to safe capacity
  - a. All ROs may increase the limit for congregational and other worship services, from 50 persons to 100 persons in places of worship
  - b. Selected ROs will participate in a pilot to increase worship limits up to 250 persons for congregational and other worship services
2. All ROs may increase the limit for non-congregational religious activities, from 50 persons to 100 persons in places of worship
3. 16 selected ROs of different faiths will participate in a pilot to resume live music

#### **1. Increase in limit for congregational and other worship services**

##### **(a) From 50 persons to 100 persons**

From 3 October 2020, all ROs will be allowed to conduct congregational and other worship services for up to 100 persons (split in two zones of up to 50 persons each for congregational services).

Besides the prevailing safe management measures introduced in Phase Two<sup>1</sup>, the ROs will have to put in place the following measures to keep the larger group of worshippers COVID-safe, taking into account the different worship practices:

- i. Churches, mosques and gurdwaras and other places of worship with structured worship services. Establish two zones, each accommodating up to 50 worshippers, for the worship service. Each zone has to be separated by a physical partition or barrier. Worshippers must maintain a safe distance from one another at all times. To avoid interaction between worshippers across zones, there should also be separate entrances and exits or staggered entry and exit timings for each zone.

<sup>1</sup> SMMs can be found on [www.cpro.gov.sg](http://www.cpro.gov.sg)

- ii. Buddhist, Taoist, Hindu temples and other places of worship with more transient worship settings. Safe management measures include ensuring no crowding or bunching of worshippers at common areas and in the prayer halls, no mingling between groups, and safe distancing between worshippers.

ROs must submit their updated Safe Management Plans (SMPs) to MCCY at least three days before commencing the 100-persons worship services.

**(b) Pilot for up to 250-persons worship services (Selected ROs only)**

From 3 Oct 2020, ROs who wish to participate in the pilot to increase worship limits up to 250 persons (five zones of up to 50 persons each for congregational services) may write in to [CPRO@mccy.gov.sg](mailto:CPRO@mccy.gov.sg), provided that they have first safely and steadily conducted worship services for 100 persons. Zoning SMMs (i.e. 50 persons per zone) will continue to apply for structured / seated worship settings.

**2. Increase in limit for non-congregational religious activities**

From 3 October 2020, all ROs will also be allowed to conduct non-congregational religious activities for a total of up to 100 persons (from the current 50) at any one time on-site, subject to the RO's ability to adhere to safe distancing measures given the physical capacity of its premises.

Existing caps on the respective activities will remain (e.g. 30 persons for funeral-related activities, 50 persons for religious classes).

**3. Pilot to resume live music (Selected ROs only)**

From 3 October 2020, MCCY will pilot the resumption of live music for 16 ROs (see [Annex A](#) for the list of participating ROs) during worship services with up to 100 persons on selected days. These ROs were identified in consultation with members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) on Racial and Religious Harmony<sup>2</sup>, and reflect the diversity of religious practices and worship settings in Singapore.

The additional SMMs that the participating ROs have to follow include:

<sup>2</sup> The NSC, chaired by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, is a national platform to build understanding and trust at the top level of community, government and faith leaders. Its members comprise the apex leaders from the major faith and ethnic groups.

- a. Up to 10 musicians / singers on stage, with maximum 5 persons unmasked. If singing is conducted in an indoor space, there can only be 2 singers unmasked at any one time.
- b. Default 1-metre safe distance for all masked persons; all unmasked persons to maintain at least 2 metres from any other individual.
- c. There should be at least 3 metres between musicians / singers and the congregation. If the stage height places the musicians / worship team at a higher vantage point, a safe distance of more than 3 metres is encouraged.
- d. The congregation has to remain masked and can give spoken responses (no singing) during worship services.

ROs participating in this pilot must submit their Safe Management Plans (SMPs) to MCCY at least three days before commencing the pilot.

MCCY will monitor and review the outcomes of the two pilots, before considering whether to extend the higher worship limits and live music to more ROs and religious activities.

## ANNEX A

### List of Participating Religious Organisations in the Live Music Pilot

<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>Participating Religious Organisations</b>	<b>Selected Worship Services</b>
Hindu Temples	1. Sri Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple	Thursdays and Saturdays only
	2. Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple	Fridays and Saturdays only
Churches	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. St Joseph Church (Bukit Timah)</li> <li>2. Covenant Evangelical Free Church (Woodlands Centre)</li> <li>3. Blessed Grace Church</li> <li>4. Bethesda (Bedok-Tampines) Church</li> <li>5. Zion Full Gospel Church</li> <li>6. New Life Community Church</li> <li>7. Covenant Vision Christian Church</li> </ol>	Saturdays and Sundays only
Gurdwaras	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gurdwara Sahib Yishun</li> <li>2. Sri Guru Singh Sabha</li> <li>3. Central Sikh Temple</li> </ol>	Saturdays and Sundays only
Buddhist Temples	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Buddha Tooth Relic Temple</li> <li>2. The Singapore Buddhist Lodge</li> </ol>	Saturdays and Sundays only, and 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of the Lunar month ( <i>where applicable</i> )
Taoist Temples	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lorong Koo Chye Sheng Hong Temple Association</li> <li>2. Hougang Tao Mu Temple</li> </ol>	