Dear Key Appointment Holders and EA Personnel,

On 26 and 30 Nov 2021, the Government announced changes to border measures to align with evolving pandemic conditions in other countries/regions.

## Extension of Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) to more countries including Thailand, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka

- The VTL will be extended to Thailand from 14 Dec 2021, and to Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Turkey from 16 Dec 2021. Short-Term Visitors and Long-Term-Pass Holders, Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs)/Confinement Nannies (CNs), who wish to enter Singapore via a VTL will have to apply for the Vaccinated Travel Pass (VTP) and fly in on designated VTL flights. Applications for VTP will open on 7 Dec 2021 for travellers from Thailand and on 9 Dec 2021 for travellers from Cambodia, Fiji, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Turkey. Please check the SafeTravel website for the VTP requirements and process.
- Travellers under VTL, including MDWs/ CNs, will not be subjected to SHN on arrival. However, they will need to take an on-arrival Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test at the port of entry. They must proceed immediately to their place of accommodation and **remain isolated until the on-arrival test is confirmed to be negative**. If the place of accommodation is not feasible for self-isolation or if there are vulnerable household members present, either the MDWs/CNs or the vulnerable household members should consider alternative accommodation. EAs who are acting on behalf of employers and require assistance to secure accommodation for their MDWs/CNs may consider approaching the Association of Employment Agencies (AEAS) by submitting a request <a href="https://example.com/hem2">hem2</a>.
- 4 MDWs/CNs from countries in the VTL can enter Singapore <u>either</u> under the VTL <u>or</u> under the Work Pass Holder General Lane (WPHGL). Please ensure that all VTL/WPHGL and Work Permit requirements are met. MDWs/CNs who do not have a valid entry approval or do not fulfil entry requirements will be denied entry into Singapore.

## Changes to classification of countries/regions

- From <u>1 Dec 2021, 2359 hrs</u>, travellers, including MDWs/CNs with travel history from **Argentina, Kuwait, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, and Thailand** in the last 14 days before entering Singapore will be placed in Category II. They will serve a 7-day stay-home-notice (SHN) at the declared accommodation.
- Those with travel history from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Belize, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay in the last 14 days will be placed in Category III and will serve a 10-day SHN at the declared accommodation.
- As of <u>27 Nov, 2359 hrs</u>, those with travel history from South Africa in the last 14 days will be placed in Category IV. However, long term pass holders, including MDWs/CNs, with recent travel history to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe will not be allowed to enter Singapore for the next 4 weeks until MOH's further update.

## On-arrival Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test for all travellers and additional Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) for travellers on Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL)

8 The Government has also announced additional precautionary measures for travellers arriving from 2 Dec, 2359 hrs to better detect and contain the spread of Omicron.

- From 2 Dec 2021, 2359 hrs, all travellers entering or transferring/transiting through Singapore, including travellers from Category I countries/regions, must undergo a Pre-Departure Test (PDT) [1] within 2 days of their departure for Singapore and obtain a negative result. All travellers entering Singapore, including travellers from Category II (non-VTL), III and IV countries, must undergo a COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test on-arrival [2]. To expedite on-arrival testing, travellers must register and pay for their on-arrival PCR tests prior to departure.
  - For arrivals by air, registration and payment would be made at Changi Airport's <u>eService</u>.
  - For arrivals by sea, registration and payment would be made at this <u>link</u>.
- 10 EAs acting on behalf of employers should ensure that MDWs/CNs comply with the requirements and that payment for the on-arrival tests are made prior to their departure for Singapore.
- Air travellers who are arriving via VTL are required to undergo additional supervised self-administered ART at a Quick Test Centre on Days 3 and 7 of their arrival [3]. Please refer to <a href="SafeTravel website">SafeTravel website</a> for details on this process. EAs acting on behalf of employers should ensure that MDWs/CNs arriving via air VTL comply with the additional ART requirements.
- Please also refer to the <u>SafeTravel website</u> for the full set of prevailing border measures, including COVID-19 test requirements, for the different categories.

## Pick up MDWs/CNs on time

- EAs acting on behalf of employers must secure suitable SHN accommodation and make transport arrangements to pick up their MDWs/CNs at the checkpoints promptly. EAs should ensure MDWs/CNs are promptly brought to their place of accommodation to serve their SHN (for Categories II/III travellers) or be isolated while waiting for the on-arrival test result (for VTL and Category I travellers). EAs may face administrative actions, including imposition of demerit points, if their MDWs/CNs are left stranded at the port of entry for more than one hour after they have cleared immigration and collected their baggage.
- 14 Let's continue to keep Singapore safe.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Teoh Commissioner for Employment Agencies Ministry of Manpower

- [1] Either a Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test or a professionally administered Antigen Rapid Test (ART) result will be accepted as a valid PDT for countries/regions in Category I III. Only RT-PCR test results will be accepted as a valid PDT for Category IV countries/regions.
- [2] The requirement for an on-arrival PCR test does not apply to VTL travellers arriving through land links with Malaysia.
- [3] VTL travellers arriving via land links with Malaysia are not required to undergo additional ART testing on Days 3 and 7. They will be subjected to a PDT as well as on-arrival ART.