

COVID-19 ADVISORY FOR VISITORS TO MWS CENTRES As at 1 December 2021

To better protect the unvaccinated who are at higher risk of infection and severe illness, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce has introduced Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS).

Visiting MWS Residential Care Facilities

At MWS Bethany Nursing Home - Choa Chua Kang, MWS Nursing Home - Yew Tee and MWS Christalite Methodist Home, in-person visits are permitted only only for Fully Vaccinated (FV) persons (i.e. both the resident and the visitor must be fully vaccinated).

Exceptions for visitations will be granted

- On compassionate basis (e.g., for critically ill residents) with the necessary safe management measures in place; or
- For medically ineligible (MI) residents and visitors who can provide acceptable proof of their MI status and will need to follow the protocols for FV visitors.

Testing Before Visits

All visitors need to produce a verifiable, negative Antigen Rapid Test result¹ (ART) obtained within 24 hours before the visit. Unsupervised self-swab offsite (e.g. at Visitor's home) is allowed for FV Visitors. Neither MOH nor MWS will provide any additional ART test kits for visitor testing. If visitors are unable to self-swab, they may visit a MOH-approved provider for Pre-Event Testing (PET) (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/statistics/pet>) or a Quick Test Centre (QTC) ([https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/quick-test-centres-\(qtcs\)](https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/quick-test-centres-(qtcs))).

Visiting Other MWS Centres

In line with the Multi-Ministry Taskforce's visitor management guidelines, Unvaccinated (UV), partially vaccinated (PV) or MI (medically ineligible) visitors to other MWS Centres must continue to test for COVID-19 using ARTs* (either by getting tested at an MOH-approved COVID-19 test provider/Quick Test Centre (QTC) or at an eldercare facility within 24 hours prior to visiting the centre) before visiting. The cost of these ARTs will be borne by the UV, PV or MI clients.

Only Visitors with a negative test result may enter our Centre (subject to other prevailing safe management measures).

In some MWS Centres, Visitors may need to self-administer the ART, under supervision. As the entire process up till the time result is known, may take approximately 30 mins, Visitors are advised to arrive 30 mins before their scheduled visit for ART testing.

The ART result has a validity of 24 hours, so Visitors may re-enter the MWS Centre if the visit occurs within 24 hours of a negative test result.

MWS may ask the Visitor to take another ART if we are unable to reliably confirm that the visitor has a valid negative test result.

As there are limits to the maximum number of visitors our Centres may receive, please contact the individual MWS Centre for Visiting Hours before making a trip.

**Note: Visitors with the following medical conditions should not undergo ART testing and will not be able to visit our Centre during the affected period.*

- *Nosebleed (in the past 24 hours)*
- *Facial surgery (in the last 8 weeks)*
- *Nasal surgery (in the last 4 weeks)*

Please note that Visitors will not be allowed to enter if you have been:

- notified to be PCR positive
- tested ART positive or
- issued a Health Risk Warning (HRW) after being identified by MOH as close contacts of an infected person

Limit on Number of Visitors

In addition, we will continue to control the number of visitors at all MWS Centres:

- All large group volunteering and activities remain suspended.
- Volunteers who volunteer at multiple locations must not enter.

Nursing Homes and Welfare Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person visits are allowed <u>for fully vaccinated persons</u> (i.e. both the resident and the visitor must be fully vaccinated), under these conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each resident is allowed up to 4 designated fully vaccinated visitors • Each resident is allowed 1 designated visitor • Each visit is capped at 30 minutes • Vendors who provide <u>non-essential</u> deliveries/maintenance works that require access into the wards will not be able to enter. • Vendors who run essential maintenance services that require access into the wards may enter but will be subject to additional requirements. • Vendors may drop off deliveries at designated 'drop-off' points outside the Centre.
Girls' Residence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2 designated visitors are allowed per resident (subject to the above conditions). • Only 1 designated visitor is allowed per resident per visit, up to 30 mins per visit, and by appointment only. • Only volunteers who lead activities that cannot be conducted remotely and have direct impact on the well-being/hygiene of residents may enter (subject to the above conditions), limited to 2 persons within the Centre at any one time. • Vendors who run essential/maintenance services for our residents may enter (subject to the above conditions). • Vendors may drop off deliveries at designated 'drop-off' points outside the Centre.
Senior Activity Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors are subject to Vaccination Differentiated Safe Management Measures in place since 1 Oct 2021. • Up to 5 volunteers are allowed at any one time. • Each volunteer can serve for up to only 2 hours per day. • Fully vaccinated clients may participate in mask-on small group activities with up to 5 persons in a group. • UV, PV and MI clients with a valid negative ART result can only participate in individual activities with 1 metre distance between

	<p>individuals. They will not be able to participate in group activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gym is closed till further notice.
Family Service Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only clients assessed to have moderate to high needs may enter (subject to the above conditions), and by appointment only, and will be served on an individual basis. • Group work/activities are suspended until further notice to limit social mixing across different households. • Service for others will be delivered remotely (via phone calls, emails, video calls) as far as possible.
Student Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All parents, including parents of newly enrolled children, may not enter the Centre. • Any child who is not enrolled in the Centre must not enter the premise during operating hours. • Only visitors who are needed to support the running of the Centre (eg. contractors) and those who need to perform necessary functions (eg. MSF officers) may enter.

TraceTogether-SafeEntry

All visitors must use the TraceTogether App on their mobile phones or TraceTogether token to check into SafeEntry and at all times while in the Centres. Visitors will be screened for travel and health history.

Masks & Hand Sanitisation

All visitors must

- wear a surgical / reusable mask at all times
- wash / sanitise hands before and after each visit
- maintain a safe distance (at least 1 metre) at all times

All these measures must be adhered to, regardless of one's COVID-19 vaccination status, or whether they are recovered cases.

**Under the Infectious Diseases Act,
anyone making a false declaration can be prosecuted**

For clarifications, please contact the MWS Centre you wish to visit. Thank you.

**Issued by
Methodist Welfare Services
1 December 2021**

ⁱ e.g. bring along dated ART test kit cartridge and dispose at the nursing home / welfare home, or show a photo of the test kit cartridge with time-stamp.