

Business operations in Phase Two

Singapore begins Phase Two of its re-opening on Friday, with a greater easing of restrictions to allow more business and social activities to resume. Virtually the entire economy will be reopened, although there are still strict limits on the number of people who can get together. Safe distancing is also a must. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and Enterprise Singapore (ESG) answer some common questions on the resumption of activities and the adherence to Safe Management Measures for businesses.



Are companies which are resuming operations required to ensure that their employees work from home in Phase Two?

All employees who have been working from home must continue to do so, and employers should continue to provide the facilities necessary for employees to do so. This will help to reduce physical interactions in the workplace and minimise the spread of Covid-19.

Employers are permitted to allow employees to go to the workplace if their job functions cannot be performed from home or where it is demonstrably necessary to do so (e.g. to operate a system or equipment that cannot be accessed from home). Physical meetings should be minimised, for example, by using teleconferencing facilities.

Employees whose roles require them to work on-site (e.g. cooking or providing dine-in services at F&B outlets) may return to the workplace, with strict Safe Management Measures in place, such as wearing masks at all times.

How do I know if I can resume operations in Phase Two?

The list of businesses that are allowed to operate from June 19 can be found on the Covid GoBusiness Portal (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/permittedlist/>).

Businesses on the list need not apply to MTI for exemption before resuming operations. They are required to submit the number of workers who are working on-site using the Covid GoBusiness portal (<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/>) within two weeks of the date of resumption of on-site operations.

Which F&B outlets are permitted to resume in Phase Two?

All F&B establishments, including standalone ones predominantly selling beverages, can operate when Phase Two begins on June 19. F&B establishments (with the exception of those with SFA food shop licences under the Pubs, Bars, Nightclubs and Discos categories) are permitted to provide dine-in services. Live music, radio broadcasts, television/video screenings and other forms of public entertainment such as dancing, darts or karaoke are not allowed.

The Sale and consumption of alcohol in all F&B establishments will be prohibited after 10.30pm daily.

I am an F&B business owner. What are the required Safe Management Measures that I must put in place?

All F&B outlets must put in place Safe Management Measures which can be found on the GoBusiness portal (www.covid.gobusiness.gov.sg) under "Safe Management Requirements" and on Enterprise Singapore's website.

Some of the key requirements include ensuring that all employees, customers, delivery personnel and other on-site personnel wear masks at all times, except when eating and drinking. F&B establishments must also ensure that common spaces and items, as well as high-touch surfaces (e.g. counters, menus) and interactive components (e.g. iPads, smart kiosks) are frequently cleaned and disinfected.

F&B outlets must ensure that each table or group of diners are limited to five or fewer persons, with at least one-metre spacing between tables or groups. They must clearly demarcate queue lines and ensure at least one metre spacing between customers at areas such as entrances and cashier counters (e.g. through floor markers). They should also train and deploy service personnel to provide clear communication to customers on safe distancing measures.

Are restaurants allowed to have buffets?

No, self-service buffets must be suspended. Buffet line catering is also not allowed.

I own an F&B establishment within a mall. Am I required to implement SafeEntry and conduct temperature taking/checks on visible symptoms, since visitors who entered the malls are already required to do so?

All F&B establishments with seated diners must implement SafeEntry to facilitate the efficient collection of customer information for contact tracing when needed. Those that only provide takeaway and/or delivery, where there is negligible or transient interaction with customers, are not required to do so.

All F&B establishments with seated diners must also conduct temperature taking of customers and checks on visible symptoms, except if they are located in malls which are already doing so.

For more Safe Management Measures and sector-specific requirements:
<https://covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/general/> ("Safe Management Requirements")

For info on SafeEntry:
go.gov.sg/safeentry-visitor-management-system

Queries?
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