

Dear Key Appointment Holders,

The Ministry of Manpower has revised the COVID-19 management protocol for MDWs residing at boarding houses housing 7 or more pax. The changes take effect immediately and are aligned to the latest protocol for managing individuals with a positive Antigen Rapid Test result (Ag+) that was announced by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) on 11 Oct 2021.

Revision to the Management Protocol for MDWs who tested Ag+

2 The management protocol for Ag+ MDWs is as follows.

Ag+ MDW who shows ARI symptoms (symptomatic)

Protocol for Ag+ MDWs

- EA staff to bring MDW to a Swab and Send Home (SASH) clinic for confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test immediately.
- MDW to be isolated at the boarding house's isolation room while waiting for PCR result. If result is negative, normal activities can be resumed.
- If result is positive, MDW may be brought to community care facility / hospital, depending on severity of symptoms.
- The BH operator is also required to deep-clean the room, and any communal facilities (e.g. toilets) used by the C+ MDW.

Protocol for Roommates

If MDW's PCR result is positive, roommates will have to go through:

- Antigen Rapid Test (ART) on D1 (i.e. following day after positive test result of MDW). If ART result is negative, roommates will be allowed to leave the BH and resume normal activities.
- Daily ART from D2 to D7, before leaving BH. If MDW is to be deployed to household during this period, MDW employer must be informed of the potential risk and daily ART requirement. Employer should be given the option to retain MDW in the BH until D7.

Ag+ MDW with no ARI symptoms (asymptomatic)

Protocol for Ag+ MDWs

- MDW to be isolated at the BH's isolation room and to perform ART after 72 hours.
- MDW can resume normal activities if she tests negative after 72 hours. If not, she will have to do another test at D7. She will automatically be discharged on D10
- At any point if MDW develops ARI symptoms, EA staff to bring MDW to a SASH clinic for a confirmatory PCR test.

Protocol for Roommates

- No additional testing required for roommates.

- However, if MDW is to be deployed to household between D1 and D7, EAs are encouraged to inform the MDW employer of potential risk. ART will still be conducted, prior to MDW's deployment to households.

Revision to Safe Management Measures at MDW BH

3 Due to the need to self-isolate asymptomatic MDWs, you should work with your BH operators to increase the number of isolation beds and put in place contingency plans to ramp up the number of isolation beds. As a guideline, the number of isolation beds to be set aside should be at least 2.5% of the boarding house's maximum occupancy. BHs with empty rooms may consider setting aside these rooms as backup isolation facilities. Please refer to Annex A for the updated Safe Management Measures.

4 If the isolation beds at your BH have been completely filled up, you should not continue to place new MDWs in the BH until the used isolation beds have been freed up (i.e., MDW is discharged from isolation due to negative ART / PCR test results).

5 If you have any enquiries on the revised protocol, you can email mom_fmmd@mom.gov.sg.

6 Thank you, and stay safe.

Mr Kevin Teoh

Commissioner for Employment Agencies

Ministry of Manpower

Annex A

Revised Safe Management Measures for MDW Boarding House

- a) Maintain proper entry/exit records for MDWs and visitors.
- b) Implement entry temperature-taking for visitors, daily temperature-taking and recording for MDWs and staff.
- c) Segregate transfer MDWs from newly arrived and Advance Placement Scheme (APS) MDWs by floors or rooms and have a system in place to prevent intermingling of MDWs across rooms.
- d) Maintain proper records of all MDW residents (known as "nominal roll"), including
 - i. MDW Full Name (as reflected in work permit)
 - ii. FIN No.
 - iii. MDW Contact No.
 - iv. MDW Date of Birth
 - v. Gender
 - vi. Nationality

- vii. Employment Agency that MDW belongs to
 - viii. Date of Check-in Into Boarding House
 - ix. Date of Check-out From Boarding House
 - x. Reason for Check-out From Boarding House (Settling-In-Programme / Deployment to Household / Repatriation / Others).
- e) Maintain room density at maximum of 16 residents, subject to occupancy limit approved by relevant authorities.
 - f) Ensure safe distancing among MDWs – minimally 1m.
 - g) Implement staggered timing for use of communal facilities such as toilets and dining areas.
 - h) Fast and Easy Testing (FET) – see detailed requirements in attached slides
 - a. MDWs residing at large BHs – pre-check-in FET, pre-deployment FET and FET RRT every 7 days (vaccinated MDWs) / twice a week (non-vaccinated MDWs)
 - b. Staff working at the BHs – FET RRT every 7 days (vaccinated staff) / twice a week (non-vaccinated staff)
 - i) Ensure timely submission of FET returns using the template provided (i.e., weekly for vaccinated individuals, bi-weekly for unvaccinated individuals).
 - j) **[New]** Set aside at least 2.5% of bed spaces for isolation purposes.