

29 January 2021

Dear F&B licensees and operators

## **ADVISORY FOR UPCOMING FESTIVE PERIOD**

Increased social intermingling during festive periods heightens the risks of COVID-19 transmission. In recent weeks, we have already seen the re-emergence of clusters in the local community. Last year, we saw the emergence of large COVID-19 clusters stemming from Chinese New Year gatherings. The increase in social activities during the Christmas and year-end period had likely contributed to the recent number of community cases.

2 It is critical that members of the public stay vigilant, follow the rules and continue to observe SMMs to prevent a resurgence of community transmission. We must not jeopardise the progress that we have made thus far. While many may wish to dine out with family and friends during the upcoming festive period, or visit popular areas such as shopping malls, F&B outlets and parks, members of the public must continue to take SMMs seriously. We all have to play our part so that the sacrifices we have made will not be in vain.

3 As announced by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) on 22 January 2021, households are limited to eight unique visitors a day. Individuals should also limit themselves to visiting at most two other households per day. For the tossing of *yusheng*, masks must be worn and the *lo hei* should be done without any verbalisation of the auspicious phrases or toasting.

4 Multiple table bookings at F&B premises for groups larger than eight persons are strictly prohibited, unless the diners are from the same household. Groups from the same household which are larger than eight persons can be allowed into the establishment. However, they will still need to be seated at multiple tables, with no more than 8 persons per table, and with at least one metre spacing maintained between these groups. Intermingling across different tables is not allowed. In the run-up to the festive period, there are already anecdotal reports of F&B outlets accepting bookings for large groups and breaking them into smaller tables, and diners making bookings for large groups under different names. We strongly advise F&B operators to double-check the reservations they have already received to ensure that the

bookings are in order. We also urge diners to not try to circumvent the rules for the sake of their loved ones and the well-being of the community.

5 Agencies are already stepping up enforcement inspections, including checking the bookings made at F&B outlets, and will continue to do so during the festive period. We will not hesitate to take firm enforcement action against operators and diners. This includes fines, suspension of operations even for first offences, and prosecution for egregious breaches.

Yours faithfully

Singapore Food Agency