

### **43 food establishment licensees warned for non-compliance to mask/spit guard requirements for food safety**

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has taken enforcement actions against 43 food establishment licensees, during the second round of targeted operations, for non-compliance to mask/spit guard wearing requirements for food safety.

Further to the [targeted operations conducted from 26 to 30 September 2022](#), SFA conducted another operation from 29 Mar to 14 April 2023 focusing on premises with high volume of public feedback received. A total of 451 food establishments, including restaurants, food stalls in hawker centres, and food fairs were inspected.

During the inspections, most of the food handlers were found to be compliant with the mask/spit guard requirements. Written warnings were issued to 43 food establishment licensees on their first offence on failing to ensure that their food handler(s) comply with the mask/spit guard wearing requirements. Stiffer enforcement action will be taken if they fail to comply with these requirements again.



SFA's enforcement officer taking enforcement action against the food handler.



SFA's enforcement officer observed a food handler breaching the mask/spit guard requirements.

Licensees found to be in breach of the licensing condition under Section 99(15) of the Environmental Public Health Act 1987 ("EHPA"), Section 46(12) of the Sale of Food Act 1973 ("SOFA") or Section 12(1) Wholesome Meat and Fish Act 1999 ("WMFA") shall be liable to a fine/financial penalty (not exceeding \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, and/or liable to have their licence suspended or cancelled.

Since Apr 2020, SFA has made it a requirement for all food handlers to wear masks or other forms of physical barriers, for food safety, as food can be contaminated by food handlers through coughing and sneezing (i.e., substances expelled from mouth or nose) onto food during the preparation and handling process. More information on the Wearing of Mask or Spit Guards by Food Handlers is available at [www.sfa.gov.sg/maskorspitguardrequirements](http://www.sfa.gov.sg/maskorspitguardrequirements).

Members of the public who come across any potential violations should report to SFA via the online feedback form ([www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback](http://www.sfa.gov.sg/feedback)). As part of the enquiry and gathering of evidence, SFA may engage the feedback provider for more details. SFA will not hesitate to take enforcement action against errant licensees if we have obtained sufficient evidence.

**Issued by SFA**

24 April 2023