



# MEDIA RELEASE

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JOINTLY ISSUED BY NEA, SFA AND ESG

## **COVID-19 TESTING TO BE OFFERED TO MORE STALLHOLDERS, STALL ASSISTANTS, CLEANERS AND FOOD DELIVERY PERSONNEL**

*Following a successful pilot run in Marine Parade, HPB, together with NEA, SFA and ESG, are extending the one-off test to persons working at hawker centres and markets, and coffeeshops in other parts of Singapore, as well as food delivery personnel operating in the locality of these eating places. Overall, more than 45,000 stallholders, their assistants, cleaners and food delivery personnel are expected to benefit from this testing exercise.*

**Singapore, 15 October 2020** – As announced by the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on 29 August 2020, COVID-19 testing regime will be expanded to identified community groups, such as stallholders at hawker centres, markets and coffeeshops, as well as food delivery personnel. Following the successful pilot run at Marine Parade, the Health Promotion Board (HPB), together with the National Environment Agency (NEA), Singapore Food Agency (SFA) and Enterprise Singapore (ESG), are extending the one-off test to more stallholders, stall assistants and cleaners working at 110 hawker centres and markets and more than 1,120 coffeeshops, as well as food delivery personnel operating in the locality of these eating places, due to their higher frequency of interactions with members of public. This will provide a better picture of population prevalence and facilitate the early containment of cryptic cases in the community, especially as we continue to reopen our economy and allow more activities to resume. Overall, more than 45,000 stallholders, their assistants, cleaners and food delivery personnel are expected to benefit from this testing exercise.

2 From 19 to 20 September 2020, a pilot run of the voluntary COVID-19 swab tests was conducted for stallholders, stall assistants and cleaners working at three selected hawker centres and markets and seven coffeeshops in the Marine Parade area, as well as food delivery personnel operating in the locality. Over 750 stallholders, stall assistants, cleaners and food delivery personnel took the test. There was no positive COVID-19 case detected.

3 Riding on the success of the pilot run, the wider rollout to more areas will commence from 15 October 2020, and will involve more than 2,200 stallholders, stall assistants and cleaners working at 11 hawker centres and markets, and 82 coffeeshops in Ang Mo Kio GRC, Kebun Baru and Yio Chu Kang SMCs, as well as food delivery personnel operating in the locality. The tests will be conducted from 15 to 16 October 2020 at screening centres set up near the hawker centres and markets (please refer to [ANNEX](#) for a list of these screening centres).

4 Officers from NEA and SFA, Grassroots Leaders as well as Hawkers' and Merchants' Associations have started to reach out to target groups working in the coffeeshops, markets and hawker centres in Ang Mo Kio GRC, Kebun Baru and Yio Chu Kang SMCs since 10 October. ESG has also engaged food delivery companies to share information on the testing exercise with their food delivery personnel.

5 Beyond Ang Mo Kio town, NEA is in discussions with Town Councils, as well as the Hawkers' and Merchants' Associations of hawker centres and markets in other parts of Singapore. to identify suitable sites, dates and timings for testing operations to be carried out. The plan is to cover the remaining hawker centres and markets, as well as the more than 1,120 coffeeshops, before the end of the year.

6 Feedback from the community groups who took the test in Marine Parade will be taken into consideration for the extension of testing operations to more areas. This include scheduling the tests on weekdays rather than weekends, where the stallholders, stall assistants, cleaners and food delivery personnel would generally be busier. Observations from the pilot run at Marine Parade also showed that accessibility of screening centres and convenience are two key success factors. Hence, the screening centres will be set up close to each hawker centre and market wherever possible to make it convenient for the stallholders, stall assistant and cleaners to get tested. The screening centres, once they are set up, will also serve coffeeshops located in close proximity to the screening centres, as well as food delivery personnel operating in the locality. There will be also be a series of crowd control, safe distancing and hygiene measures<sup>1</sup> implemented at the screening centres to protect everyone in the community.

7 The testing operations will be progressively rolled out to different regions of Singapore, and information on the test schedules and locations of the screening centres will be provided when ready. Stallholders, stall assistants, cleaners and food delivery personnel will be notified in advance by NEA, SFA and ESG, and the respective Hawkers' and Merchants' Associations, as well as food delivery companies on when and where they can be tested. While participation in the test is voluntary, members of the identified community groups are strongly encouraged to come forward for testing, so as to better protect themselves and their loved ones.

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<sup>1</sup> These include traffic marshals to control the movement of people and vehicles, ushers to guide movement of people to minimise contact and ensure 1-metre safe distancing at all times, wipe down of swab stations after every test, daily cleaning of screening centre and the like.

### **About National Environment Agency**

Formed on 1 July 2002, the National Environment Agency (NEA) is the leading public organisation responsible for ensuring a clean and green environment, and the sustainable development of Singapore. Its key roles are to protect Singapore's resources from pollution, maintain a high level of public health and provide timely meteorological information. NEA also develops and spearheads environmental initiatives and programmes through its partnership with the People, Public and Private sectors. It is committed to motivating every individual to care for the environment as a way of life, in order to sustain a quality living environment for present and future generations.

### **About Singapore Food Agency**

As the lead agency for food-related matters, the Singapore Food Agency's mission is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food for Singapore. SFA works hand-in-hand with the industry and consumers to grow our three "food baskets" – Diversify import sources, Grow local, and Grow overseas, as well as ensure food safety from farm-to-fork. SFA also partners food businesses to strengthen capabilities, tap on technologies to raise productivity, undertake research to develop new lines of business, and catalyse industry transformation to ensure food security. For more information on SFA, visit [www.sfa.gov.sg](http://www.sfa.gov.sg).

### **About Enterprise Singapore**

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards. Visit [www.enterprisesg.gov.sg](http://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg) for more information.

**List of screening centres in Ang Mo Kio GRC, Kebun Baru and Yio Chu Kang SMCs  
(15-16 October 2020)**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Hawker centre and market</b>	<b>Screening centre</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>15 Oct</b>			
1.	Blk 160/162 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4	Blk 174 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4 (Void Deck)	10am to 4pm
2.	Blk 453A Ang Mo Kio Ave 10	Blk 428 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3 (Void Deck)	
3.	Blk 527 Ang Mo Kio Ave 10	Blk 528 Ang Mo Kio Ave 10 (Badminton Court above Ang Mo Kio Town Council)	
4.	Blk 628 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4	Blk 624 Ang Mo Kio Ave 4 (Pavilion)	
5.	Ci Yuan Hawker Centre	Blk 918 Hougang Ave 9 (Multi-Purpose Court)	
6.	Sembawang Hills Food Centre	Gelenggang Park (Pavilion)	2pm to 4pm
<b>16 Oct</b>			
7.	Blk 226D Ang Mo Kio Ave 1	Blk 214 Ang Mo Kio Ave 3 (Void Deck)	10am to 4pm
8.	Blk 226H Ang Mo Kio St 22	Blk 214 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 (Void Deck)	
9.	Blk 341 A Ang Mo Kio Ave 1	Blk 315 Ang Mo Kio St 31 (Pavilion)	
10.	Blk 409 Ang Mo Kio Ave 10	Blk 402 Ang Mo Kio Ave 10 (Pavilion)	
11.	Blk 724 Ang Mo Kio Ave 6	Ang Mo Kio Central Stage	