

Further Clarifications on the Mandatory Testing Regimes (FET RRT & VoRT) for Establishments within Retail Malls and Large Standalone Stores

(Last Updated: 20 September 2021)

This document is created to supplement the FAQs listed in the link below
<https://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/covid-19/mandatory-testing>.

For further enquiries, please reach out to us at go.gov.sg/helloesg.

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Differences Between the Mandatory Testing Regimes

1. What is the difference between FET RRT and VoRT?

FET RRT is applicable to all employees working at establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores regardless of vaccination status. This covers external vendors primarily based in malls (e.g., security officers, waste management workers) and non-public facing roles (e.g., centre management office employees based in malls, office employees based in large standalone stores). This also includes part-time and temporary employees working at establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores.

Establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores will be onboarded progressively from 27 September 2021. The testing frequency is once every seven days. The costs of the ART kits will be fully subsidized until 31 December 2021.

VoRT is only applicable to unvaccinated employees (both medically eligible and ineligible) working at establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores. Like FET RRT, VoRT covers external vendors primarily based in malls (e.g., security officers, waste management workers) and non-public facing roles (e.g., centre management office employees based in malls, office employees based in large standalone stores).

From 1 October 2021, the testing frequency is twice every seven days for unvaccinated employees working at establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores. The costs of the extra ART kit required every seven days will be fully subsidized only for medically ineligible employees until 31 December 2021. Medically eligible employees will need to self-fund and self-source the extra ART kit required every seven days.

Please see the following table for a summary of FET RRT and VoRT:

Vaccination status of employee		Period	Testing Frequency	Number of tests that will be funded by the Government within a 28-day period
Fully Vaccinated*		Progressively From 27 Sep 2021 onwards	Once every 7 days	4
Unvaccinated	Medically ineligible	Progressively From 27 to 30 Sep 2021	Once every 7 days	4
		From 1 Oct 2021 onwards	Twice every 7 days	8

	Medically Eligible	Progressively From 27 to 30 Sep 2021	Once every 7 days	4
		From 1 Oct 2021 onwards	Twice every 7 days	4 (remaining 4 test kits to be self-funded)

Coverage of the Mandatory Testing Regimes

- Are Centre Management Office (CMO) employees of retail malls and large standalone stores subjected to FET RRT and VoRT?

For CMO office not located within the premise of the mall or large standalone stores, only front-facing CMO employees need to comply with FET RRT and VoRT.

For CMO office located within malls, all staff will be placed on FET RRT and VoRT.

- Are FET RRT and VoRT applicable to coworking spaces located in retail malls?

FET RRT and VoRT are applicable only to front-facing coworking space staff and community managers. Both testing regimes will not be applicable to the non-customer facing leasing tenants who occupy these spaces.

- Do HQ employees or managers need to comply with FET RRT and VoRT, if they only visit the retailers in malls or large standalone stores occasionally, and the HQ office is not located within premises of a mall or large standalone store?

If your HQ office is not located within premises of mall or large standalone stores, and your HQ employees or managers only visit the retailers in the mall occasionally, they need not comply with FET RRT and VoRT.

However, if they visit the retailers in malls or large standalone stores at least once every seven days, they must comply with FET RRT and VoRT.

- Who will be responsible in ensuring that employees of my external vendors comply with FET RRT and VoRT?

The responsibility of ensuring that all employees working at establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores comply with FET RRT and VoRT lies on the premise owner.

- This includes part-timers, freelancers, temporary staff, and employees of your external vendors that work in establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores at least once every seven days.
- Establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores should discuss with external vendors on how the parties should operationalise FET RRT and VoRT for these employees.
 - External vendors are permitted to send their own employees for ART supervisory training, supervise the self-swab, and upload their respective swab test results.
 - However, these supervisors and employees of your external vendors will need to submit their result under the UEN of your establishment. You will therefore be able to monitor if employees of your external vendors are compliant with FET RRT and VoRT.
 - Some of your external vendors might have already been subjected to FET RRT (e.g., cleaners). If they have already been onboarded, there is no need to onboard them a second time.
 - However, you are still required to ensure that these employees that conduct works at your premise are compliant with FET RRT and VoRT. This can come in the form of declaration or sighting the employees' weekly ART test result SMS.

6. Understand that cleaners are already onboarded onto FET RRT. Do I still need to onboard them as part of my headcount?

If your outsourced cleaners are already onboarded onto FET RRT, you do not have to onboard them again.

However, if your outsourced cleaners have not been onboarded onto the FET RRT regime, you need to include them. Please see question 5 for more information.

7. What if my part-time employees or contractors works at different establishments in malls or large standalone stores?

Your part-time employees or contractor only need to be tested at one establishment every seven days. Please communicate and make necessary arrangements with your part-time employees or contractors.

If your part-time employees or contractors are tested at another establishment, you are still required to ensure that these employees that conduct works at your premise are compliant with FET RRT and VoRT. This can come in the form of declaration or sighting the employees' weekly ART test result SMS.

8. What if my employees are deployed to different outlets every week?

According to the [Ministry of Manpower's advisory issued on 9 May 2020](#), no employee should work at more than one worksite. If cross-deployment cannot be avoided (e.g.,

due to the nature of the job), additional safeguards must be taken to minimise the risk of cross infection.

In situations where cross-deployment cannot be avoided, your employees only need to be accounted once as part of the headcount of one designated outlet. Their test results will need to be submitted via the swab supervisors of the designated outlet(s).

9. We are a standalone store and not located within a mall, are these mandatory tests applicable to us?

Only establishments in malls and large standalone stores (>10,000 square foot) need to undergo this regime. All other establishments (e.g., establishments in heartland areas) need not be placed under this regime.

Compliance of the Mandatory Testing Regimes

10. Must the result of the mandatory tests be shared with the respective malls?

No, it will be uploaded onto the SRS system and only the government and your SRS company HR account holders can view the results.

11. If my employees are not coming to work for the week, are they allowed to skip the test?

If your employees are regularly deployed to your establishments in malls or large standalone stores, and are taking a short leave¹, they are still subjected to the mandatory test regimes every week. Your swab supervisors are expected to make arrangement to test your employees on leave and upload their results onto SRS.

12. If an employee is tested positive, will the affected establishments within retail malls be mandated to close?

It depends on whether your employee is tested Ag+ or C+. As per MOH's circular dated 20 September ("Approach to Asymptomatic Patients with Positive SARS-COV-2 Antigen Rapid Test Results"):

For Symptomatic Ag+ cases:

Send staff for confirmatory PCR test and advise staff to WFH and others to monitor their health.

For Asymptomatic Ag+ cases:

Ask staff to self-isolate at home for 72 hours. There is no need to undergo confirmatory PCR testing at the first Ag+ result.

¹ Short leave is defined as any duration that is less than one month.

Staff should conduct a second ART test 72 hours following the first Ag+ result, and only proceed to undergo a PCR test if the second test is also Ag+ or if they develop symptoms.

For C+ cases:

The company is required to deep cleaning the infected space, and all other employees should monitor their health closely.

If transmission is detected in the store or mall, MOH can issue a close order under the Infectious Disease Act (IDA). Otherwise, the venue can remain open.

For venues that have been visited by positive COVID-19 cases and asked to close by the Ministry of Health (MOH), employees should not be redeployed to other worksites at all for the period of closure.

Do refer to the [MOH website](#) for latest updates.

13. What is the protocol on disinfection of premises visited by positive COVID-19 cases?

Establishments that were visited by positive COVID-19 cases (as informed and confirmed by MOH) are strongly advised to:

- Disinfect premises as soon as practicable. Arrange for disinfection by external vendors to be carried out, if you are unable to do so yourself. Please inform NEA about your disinfection schedule by emailing the following personnel:

[Kabilan APANA@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Kabilan_APANA@nea.gov.sg)

[Mohammad Harfid HAMDAN@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Mohammad_Harfid_HAMDAN@nea.gov.sg)

[Dannyanand GJ@nea.gov.sg](mailto:Dannyanand_GJ@nea.gov.sg)

Premises can reopen only after disinfection is completed. The time taken to complete the disinfection will depend on the size of the premises.

MOH will advise on whether employees need to be quarantined.

Once disinfection is completed, premises can reopen and be manned by employees not identified as close contacts. Close contacts of the positive COVID-19 case, as identified by MOH, can return to work only after they have completed their Quarantine Order or as directed by MOH.

If there are additional directives issued by MOH (e.g., for premises to be closed for a longer period), companies must comply accordingly.

14. Is the Time-Limited 8-weeks Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) for workplaces applicable to HQ employees that visit the establishments within retail malls or large standalone stores on-site²?

Yes. As these HQ workers are not based in establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores, and they do not perform front-facing job functions, they will be eligible to request for 8 ART kits per on-site employees for voluntary self-swab.

More details on Time-Limited 8-weeks RRT can be found here:

<https://www.gobusiness.gov.sg/timelimitedrrt/>

ART Kits Fulfilment

15. Are pregnant women considered as medically ineligible individuals and hence eligible for the subsidized ART kits once VoRT comes into effect on 1 October 2021?

Pregnant women are not considered as medically ineligible individuals, unless they have obtained a doctor's memo to certify that they have other pre-existing conditions that would complicate their ability in receiving the COVID-19 Vaccines.

If a pregnant woman does not have a doctor's memo, she will be considered as a medically eligible individual.

16. Can the companies procure their own kits and seek reimbursement, or would the test kits be disseminated to them before 20 September?

Companies do not need to procure their own ART kits and seek reimbursement.

Establishments within retail malls and large standalone stores should submit their essential details [here](#) to arrange for delivery of test kits. Sector leads will proceed to order the declared quantities of ART kits and have them delivered to the tenant POC.

17. What if my employees are on long term leave? Do I account for them in this inaugural declaration of required ART quantities?

We suggest excluding your employees who are on long term leave staff from the first round of submission and order their ART kits on a replenishment basis. More information on replenishment orders will be updated on a later date.

18. Where can I procure ART test kits in bulk for my unvaccinated medically eligible workers?

Companies can procure ART test kits in bulk for their unvaccinated medically eligible workers from the following providers:

² Any employee not working from home (WFH) is considered as an on-site employee.

- Quidel – Jenn Ng (jenn.ng@quantumsg.com)
- Abbott – Roger Jung (roger.jung@abbott.com)
- Roche – Graciela Lizardo (graciela.lizardo@roche.com)
- Std Q/ SD Biosensor (SPD Scientific) – Ignatius Teo (Ignatius.teo@biomediaholdings.com)
- BD Veritor – Viu Hui Lim (xiuhui.lim@bd.com)

Miscellaneous Administrative Issues

19. I have made an error in my [“VoRT & FET RRT Registration for Workers in Retail Malls and Large Standalone Stores” FormSG](#). How do I make amendments?

To make amendment, please submit a new entry via FormSG. We will only refer to the information submitted in your latest submission.

20. How do I change my SRS company admins?

- For companies that do not have SRS accounts, please make the amendment by following the steps described in question 19.
- For companies that already have SRS accounts, please email retail_design@enterprisesg.gov.sg with the following details:
 - Company Name
 - UEN
 - Names of Existing SRS company admin(s)
 - Names of New SRS company admin(s)
 - NRIC of New SRS company admin(s)
 - Mobile Number of New SRS company admin(s)
 - Email Address of New SRS company admin(s)