

CAAS Circular 2/2022

14 January 2022

VACCINATION-DIFFERENTIATED SAFE MANAGEMENT MEASURES ELIGIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS

This Circular provides information on the Vaccination-Differentiated Safe Management Measures (VDS) eligibility for individuals.

2 MOM has updated its advisory dated 27 December 2021, with regard to work arrangements for employees who are fully vaccinated, certified to be medically ineligible, or have recovered from COVID-19. Please refer to the advisory at <https://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/advisory-on-covid-19-vaccination-in-employment-settings>.

3 MOH has provided further guidance that non-fully vaccinated individuals who had recovered from COVID-19 infection prior to 1 January 2022 will have their exemption period reduced from 270 days to 180 days. However, such non-fully vaccinated recovered individuals who have already exceeded, or will exceed, the 180-day period in the month of January 2022 will be granted an additional one-month grace period till 31 January 2022 (inclusive) to complete their primary series vaccination regime so as to continue being able to access VDS settings.

4 To provide guidance on the conduct of VDS entry checks for non-fully-vaccinated employees who have recovered from COVID-19, employers conducting such checks in January 2022 can accept discharge memos or pre-event testing (PET) exemption notices (please refer to pages 13 – 15 in <https://go.gov.sg/acceptabledocs> for samples of the discharge memos and PET exemption notice) as long as the date of first PCR test result is any date from 7 April 2021 onwards. Employers should also verify that the memo or notice belongs to the individual by checking against his/her Government-issued photo identification. While doing such checks, employers should remind these recovered individuals that the 180-day exemption period had started to apply from 1 January 2022, and that the concession would only last till 31 January 2022 (inclusive). Employers should therefore remind these individuals to complete their primary series vaccination regimen promptly.

5 As further elaboration, there would be 2 groups of non-fully vaccinated recovered individuals who are able to enter VDS settings in the month of January 2022:

- a) Those who are granted the grace period (i.e., from the date they exceed the 180-day period till 31 January 2022). Their discharge memos or PET exemption notices should show the date of their first PCR test result to be a date between 7 April 2021 to 4 August 2021 (both dates inclusive), but where the number of days between the date of the first PCR test to the current date should not be more than 270 days. (Note: 7 Apr 2021 to 1 Jan 2022 is 270 days, hence on 2 Jan 2022, only those with the date of their first PCR test that is 8 Apr 2021 or later should be accepted and so on; and from 4 Aug 2021 to 31 Jan 2022, there are 180 days, so those who have the date of their first PCR test that is from 5 Aug 2021 onwards will all be within 180 days for the duration of the month of January 2022.)
- b) Those still within the 180-day exemption period. As the TT App/ Token is not ready to reflect their recovered status (on the basis of 180 days) accurately yet, they will also need to produce either the discharge memo or PET exemption notices. The discharge memo or PET exemption notice should show the date of the first PCR test result to be any date from 5 August 2021 or later.

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