



Advisory on the COVID-19 Outbreak 4/2021 (as at 16 May 2021)

Suspension of Onsite In-Person Congregational Worship Services

1. In response to the tighter control measures in **Phase 2 – Heightened Alert**, Bethel has **suspended all onsite in-person congregational worship services** from 15 May 2021, until further notice.¹

Recording and Broadcast of Religious Services and Prayers²

2. Recording and broadcast of religious services and prayers will be continued to support members during this period.
3. **From 16 May 2021, religious organizations can have up to 15 persons on-location for these productions, of which up to 10 persons can be unmasked at any one time, with no more than 2 persons unmasked for singing and/or playing wind/brass instruments.**
4. Those singing and/or playing wind/brass instruments must maintain 2 metres between all other individuals. All other persons present must maintain a 1-metre separation.
5. The time spent on-location for this activity should be kept as short as possible. The production team must also put in place safe management measures, including no cross-deployment between locations, and thorough cleaning of technical equipment. **There shall be no audience.**
6. **Religious organizations who wish to use their premises for digital recording or broadcast are required to notify through the CPRO website of (i) the planned dates of the digital productions; (ii) venue; and (iii) confirmation of adherence to the performers and crew limits, before conducting the digital productions.**

¹ Bethel PC began onsite worship service in August 2020, with a maximum of 50 worshippers (including children) allowed at any one time. From 3 Oct 2020, the authorities allowed places of worship to conduct congregational and other worship services with up to 100 persons at a time, but Bethel decided to increase the capacity of onsite services to 80 due to various constraints. The maximum capacity for onsite worship services was increased by the authorities from 100 worshippers to 250 from 28 Dec 2020. Bethel began onsite worship services with up to 250 worshippers from 3 Jan 2021. From 8 May 2021, in Phase 3 – Heightened Alert, Bethel has reduced its onsite in-person worship service's capacity from 250 to **100** worshippers at any one time, with the required safe management measures in place. See MCCY's "Phase Two (Heightened Alert) Tighter Measures for Religious Activities" issued on 15 May 2021 (cpro.gov.sg).

² See MCCY's "Phase Two (Heightened Alert) Tighter Measures for Religious Activities" issued on 15 May 2021 (cpro.gov.sg).

Suspension of All Other Onsite/In-Person Church Ministries³

7. *All other onsite/in-person church ministries*, e.g., pastoral visitations, cell groups, youth and young adult fellowships, Sunday school, English classes, Elders & Deacons Court meeting, and various committee meetings, etc., have already been suspended from **8 May 2021**.⁴
8. Leaders and members are encouraged to continue to use remote means (e.g. Zoom, FaceTime, etc.) for the above ministries and meetings, and to communicate and minister to one another.

Funerals and Wakes

9. From **16 May 2021**, funerals, wakes, installation of niches and post-funeral rites at places of worship can involve not more than **20** attendees at any time, including the day of burial/cremation and in groups of no more than **2** persons (excluding religious and supporting workers, whose numbers should be kept to a minimum), subject to safe management measures and the safe capacity of the premises.⁵
10. Live instrumental music (non-wind) is permitted but strongly discouraged with the safe management measures in place. Persons involved in/supporting the live instrumental music segment should be kept to the minimum. No other performances (e.g. singing, dance, variety act) are allowed.
11. There must not be any reception with food and drinks.

Marriage Solemnizations⁶

12. From **16 May 2021**, solemnizations involving *up to 50* attendees will *not* require pre-event testing (PET) for COVID19. **51 to 100 attendees will be permitted if all attendees undergo PET.**⁷ The 50/100-persons limit includes the bride and groom, the two witnesses and any other guests. The solemnizer and religious workers involved are excluded from the 50/100-persons limit.
13. If the total number of attendees is more than 48 (excluding the wedding couple), they must still be segregated into zones of up to 50 persons each. An individual attending the solemnization must remain within his or her respective assigned zone and must not enter an unassigned zone.

³ Other church ministries exclude Bethel Day Care and Preschool, which is under the purview of the childcare committee and Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA); All Saints Memorial Chapel & All Saints Home which are under the purview of their respective Boards and the relevant authorities.

⁴ See MCCY's "Phase Two (Heightened Alert) Tighter Measures for Religious Activities" issued on 15 May 2021 (cpro.gov.sg).

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.* Refer to Safe Management Measures for Marriage Solemnizations and Wedding Receptions at: <http://www.covid.gobusiness.gov.sg/safemanagement/sector> & Registry of Marriages' website.

⁷ For further details on PET requirements, refer to: <http://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/pet>.

14. Attendees must maintain a 1-metre safe distance between groups **of 2** except a core “wedding party”⁸, which is allowed to comprise up to 20 persons (including the couple and their two witnesses). There should be no intermingling or mixing between groups nor between the “wedding party” and these other groups.
15. Live instrumental music (non-wind) is permitted but strongly discouraged, with the safe management measures in place.⁹ Persons involved in / supporting the live instrumental music segment should be kept to the minimum. No other performances (e.g. singing, dance, variety act) are allowed.
16. Safe management measures should also be in place at the solemnization venue. **Masks must be worn by everyone at all times, and cannot be removed even momentarily for identification of witnesses, during key moments such as exchange of marriage vows, exchange of rings, when the groom kisses the bride and during photo-taking.**¹⁰
17. There must not be any reception with food and drinks, or wedding celebrations that are not essential religious rites.
18. The solemnization should be kept short.
19. Video-link solemnization will continue to be available as an option for eligible couples who prefer to do so during this COVID-19 period, until further advised.

Mandatory TraceTogether SafeEntry

20. TraceTogether (TT) App or TT Token check-in mode for SafeEntry into church will be mandated from *17 May 2021*.¹¹ Identity card barcode scanning will still be available until 31 May 2021.
21. Bethel has implemented the SEGW at its premise wef 10 April 2021. See Use of SEGW App / Box (Figure 1) and location of SEGW Boxes in Bethel (Figure 2).

⁸ Besides the couple and their two witnesses, the core wedding party can comprise a group of close family and/or friends who are required or expected to interact with one another during the course of the solemnization.

⁹ See MCCY’s “Phase Two (Heightened Alert) Tighter Measures for Religious Activities” issued on 15 May 2021 (cpro.gov.sg).

¹⁰ See Registry of Marriages’ website.

¹¹ *Ibid.* From 19 Apr 2021, all congregational and other worship services having more than 100 persons will be required to deploy the SafeEntry Gateway (SEGW) at their main entrances as an additional check-in mode. The SEGW provides quicker and more seamless check-in using the TraceTogether (TT) App or Token.

Check-in Only

Using:

- SEGW App or
- SEGW Box
- SEGW does **not** work with the SingPass Mobile app, it only detects the TT Token or App

The infographic is divided into two main columns: 'Using SEGW App' and 'Using SEGW Box'. Each column contains instructions for 'FOR TRACETOGETHER APP USERS' and 'FOR TRACETOGETHER TOKEN USERS', along with 'SUCCESSFUL CHECK-IN' and 'FAILED CHECK-IN' scenarios.

Using SEGW App:

- FOR TRACETOGETHER APP USERS:**
 - Make sure you turn on Bluetooth.
 - Open your Tracetogether App in the foreground.
 - Bring your phone to within 1-25cm of the device with SafeEntry Gateway function.
- FOR TRACETOGETHER TOKEN USERS:**
 - Make sure your Token has not run out of battery.
 - Face the Token QR code away from the device with SafeEntry Gateway function.
 - Bring your Token to within 1-25cm of the device with SafeEntry Gateway function.
- SUCCESSFUL CHECK-IN:** Green screen will appear on the device with SafeEntry Gateway function.
- FAILED CHECK-IN:** No change on the device with SafeEntry Gateway function.

Using SEGW Box:

- FOR TRACETOGETHER APP USERS:**
 - Make sure you turn on Bluetooth.
 - Open your Tracetogether App in the foreground.
 - Bring your phone to within 1-25cm of the SafeEntry Gateway Box.
- FOR TRACETOGETHER TOKEN USERS:**
 - Make sure your Token has not run out of battery.
 - Face the Token QR code away from the SafeEntry Gateway Box.
 - Bring your Token to within 1-25cm of the SafeEntry Gateway Box.
- SUCCESSFUL CHECK-IN:** Green light will appear on the SafeEntry Gateway Box with a beep sound.
- FAILED CHECK-IN:** No light will appear on the SafeEntry Gateway Box.

Figure 1: Use of SEGW App / Box

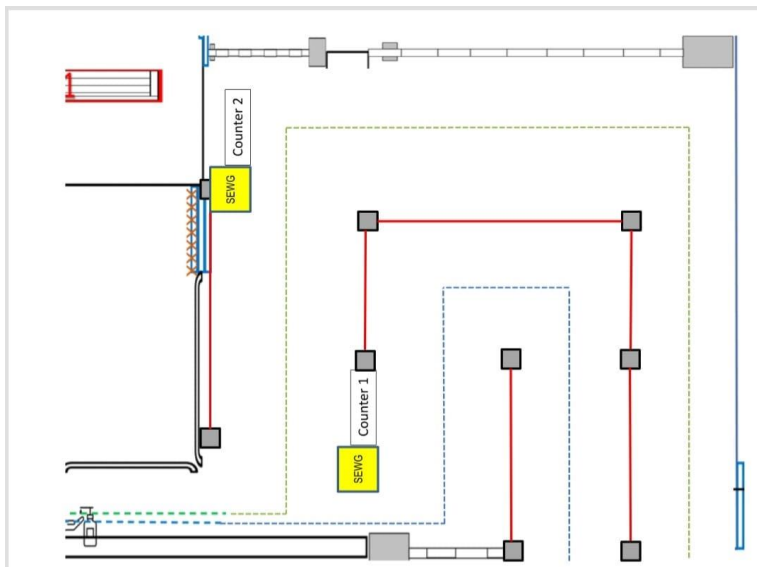


Figure 2: Location of SEGW Boxes (highlighted above in Yellow)

Safe Management Measures to Minimise Transmission

22. Anyone with any of the following are *not* permitted to enter the church premise:

- Recent travel abroad or close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within the last 14-21 days;¹²
- Still serving Leave of Absence, Stay Home Notice, Quarantine Order, Medical Leave, or within the period instructed by the authorities to monitor for COVID19-related symptoms;
- Feeling unwell (including but not limited to respiratory symptoms, e.g. flu, cough, sore throat, etc.); or
- Temperature > 37.5°C.

¹² Please see <https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19/faqs> for more information.

Regulations for Church Staff

23. **From 16 May 2021, telecommuting will be the default for workplaces, so as to minimise the number of on-site religious workers and staff. Only staff with essential duties to be performed onsite can be allowed to return to the workplace.** The religious workers and administrative staff should comply with the prevailing workplace safe management measures stipulated by the Ministry of Manpower (MOM).¹³

Connectedness with God and One Another, Care and Concern for Others

24. All members are encouraged to regularly connect with God through prayer, reading and meditating His Word and worshipping Him with spiritual hymns and songs, alone or with family members staying together, during this period.
25. All members are also encouraged to connect with other members via text messages, phone calls and other remote ways.
26. As Christians, we are called to show care and concern for our neighbours. We can do so by praying for COVID19-infected patients, their family members, healthcare professionals and other frontline workers, foreign workers, government authorities, the nation and the world. We can also contribute to the church's love offering and Safe Sound Sleeping Place (S3P@Bethel) ministry to assist those in need, and in other ways.
27. We should not discriminate or criticize baselessly. Instead, we should do our part to support the fight against this outbreak, and be channels of God's blessing.

Evolving Nature of Outbreak and Update of Advisory

28. In view of the evolving nature of COVID-19 pandemic, the advisory will be updated as and when circumstances demand.

Issued by Bethel Presbyterian Church

16 May 2021, 5pm

¹³ Refer to: <http://www.mom.gov.sg/covid-19/requirements-for-safe-management-measures>. Refer also to Guidelines on Safe Management Measures for Bethel Presbyterian Church version 05/2020 dated 30 December 2020