

26 August 2021

REMINDER ON MANDATORY ANTIGEN RAPID TESTING (ART) AND IMPLEMENTATION OF VACCINATE OR REGULAR TESTING (VORT) REGIME FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

To safeguard worksites and workforce against COVID-19 transmissions, the construction sector is required to implement mandatory Antigen Rapid Testing (ART) in two stages (i.e. by 20 August and 3 September 2021 – please refer to Table 1 for details), for the following personnel who do not reside in dormitories¹:

- **All personnel (workers/visitors) entering construction worksites, and;**
- **All other construction account workers (CAWs) on Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) regime², working on non-construction worksite premises**

Table 1

Stage	Types of works	Timeline for mandating ART
Stage 1	Construction Projects with project value > \$3 mil and Construction Supply Works Premises ³ (Large Sites)	20 Aug 2021 (Fri)
Stage 2	Construction Projects with project value ≤ \$3 mil (Small Sites)	3 Sept 2021 (Fri) (place order for ART kits by 27 Aug)
	Other construction account workers (CAWs) working on non-construction worksites [e.g. renovation, lift and escalator installation works, minor works, repair and re-decoration works]	3 Sep 2021 (Fri)

2. In view of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases at the worksites and dormitories, we would like to remind all large sites to implement your ART operations immediately if you have not done so, and strongly urge the small sites and companies with CAWs on RRT regime who are working on non-

¹ ART will be progressively introduced for workers residing in dormitories (details will be shared by MOM)

² Refers to Construction Work Permit and S-Pass holders (foreign workers registered under Construction Account with Ministry of Manpower) on RRT regime

³ Refers to construction projects and Construction Supply Works which had obtained BCA’s approval to resume works in Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works

Construction projects refer to those requiring Building Plan (BP) / Structural Plan (ST) or Temporary Building Permit (TBP) submission(s) to BCA and which the project had not obtained TOP(Full) or CSC(Full) status or Permit to Use (PTU)). Supply work premises refer to:

- (a) Conventional precast concrete yard
- (b) Integrated construction and prefabrication hub (ICPH)
- (c) Prefabricated prefinished volumetric construction (PPVC) fit-out factory
- (d) Prefabricated bathroom unit (PBU) fit-out factory
- (e) Prefabricated mechanical, electrical and plumbing factory
- (f) Ready-mixed concrete (RMC) plant
- (g) Sand and aggregate terminal

construction worksites to implement ART ahead of the mandatory implementation date.

3. Contractors/firms are required to comply with the ART requirements and frequency of administering ART on top the current RRT regime, summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Personnel on RRT regime		(i) Workers/Visitors entering construction worksites / construction supply works premises (ii) All other Construction Account Workers (CAWs) working on non-construction worksites (e.g. Lift and escalator installation works, renovation, minor works, repair and re-decoration works)
Reside in dorm⁴		ART will be progressively introduced for workers residing in dormitories (details will be shared by MOM)
Reside in Private Residential Premises / HDB	Vaccinated (at least 2 weeks after 2 nd dose) ^	ART is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART on Day 7 of the 14-day RRT cycle*
	Unvaccinated	ART is required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART on Day 3, Day 7, Day 11 of the 14-day RRT cycle*

* For workers/visitors who are currently on 7-Day RRT cycle, ART would be on Day 3.

^ For recovered personnel - at least 2 weeks after single dose of vaccination

ART Implementation

4. For details on ART implementation, please refer to **Annex A**, as well as the [circular issued on 7 Aug 2021](#).

5. Uploading of ART Results. ART supervisors, employers of workers or the workers themselves (under the supervision of the ART supervisors) **are reminded to upload their ART results, upon completion of their ART testing**. Individuals' ART results will be recorded and reflected in their respective HealthHub or FWMOMCare after the ART results are successfully uploaded. Please refer to <https://go.gov.sg/bca-uploading-art-results> or more information on the uploading of ART results. For any confirmed Covid positive/ Ag+/ retested Ag invalid results, please update BCA via <https://go.gov.sg/bca-covid-antigen-testreport>. The workers should retain a photo of their recent self-administered test kit's results for their own record.

⁴ The workers residing in Purpose-Built Dormitories (PBDs), Factory-Converted Dormitories (FCD), Construction Temporary Quarters (CTQ), Temporary Occupational License Quarters (TOLQs) or Temporary Living Quarters (TLQs)

Implementation of the Vaccinate or Regular Testing (VoRT) Regime

6. On 13 August 2021, [the Ministry of Health announced the expansion of the “Vaccinate or Regular Test” \(VoRT\) regime for selected high-risk sectors, including the construction sector.](#) In line with this, the construction sector will implement the VoRT regime from 1 October 2021.

7. From 1 October 2021, all unvaccinated persons (regardless of the job nature -front-facing or back-end jobs) under any of the following categories will be tested twice a week using ART:

- (a) Employee of any construction firms (primary business activity is listed under SSIC 41, 42 or 43⁵);**
- (b) Employee of firms which are registered under the BCA’s Contractors Registry Regulatory Workheads RW02 and RW03⁶; or**
- (c) All work pass holders (including Employment Pass / S Pass / Work Permit Holders) whose work passes state that they are hired under the Construction sector**

This requirement applies to the medically ineligible for COVID-19 vaccination and personnel previously not on RRT and ART regime. **For avoidance of doubt, the prevailing RRT and ART testing requirements for personnel currently under the RRT and ART regime (under Table 2) will fulfil the VoRT requirements.** More details on VoRT implementation will be announced closer to 1st October 2021.

8. In the interim, we encourage all firms to urge their unvaccinated employees, who are medically eligible, to get their COVID-19 vaccinations if they have not done so. This would help safeguard the workforce and prevent potential disruptions to ongoing works. Let us remain vigilant and agile in adapting and implementing enhanced safe management measures and controls to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the construction workforce.

⁵ Please visit [ACRA’s portal](#) for more information on SSIC Classification.

⁶ Please visit [BCA’s Directory of Registered Contractors and Licensed Builders](#) for more information.

For Updates and Information

9. For updates and information on ART for the construction sector, please refer to: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-art> and <https://www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19/faqs/construction-sector/art>. Do [click to subscribe to BCA's Telegram Channel](#) and refer to the BCA Website – www1.bca.gov.sg/COVID-19 for COVID-19 updates and information.

Yours faithfully

GRACE MUI
GROUP DIRECTOR, MANPOWER STRATEGY AND PLANNING
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Annex A : Summary of ART Implementation Steps (For more information, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/bca-steps-to-implement-art>)

For <u>Main Contractors</u> of Construction Worksites and <u>Companies</u> managing Construction Supply Works Premises	For <u>Companies</u> with Construction Account workers (CAWs) currently on RRT and working on non-construction worksite premises
1) <u>Training of ART Supervisors</u> (please visit https://go.gov.sg/bcaa-art-training for more information)	
<p>Register assigned ART supervisors to complete and pass ART Swabbing and Supervision for Built Environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training places will be prioritised for up to 2 ART Supervisors per project reference; Main contractors are encouraged to register early to secure earliest training slot so that trained supervisors can be deployed to oversee ART operations by mandatory ART implementation dates⁷ 	<p>Register assigned ART supervisors to complete and pass ART Self-Swab Supervision for Built Environment (Non-Construction Worksite).</p>
2) <u>Ordering/Collection of Complimentary ART Test Kits</u>	
<p>Register orders by the dates indicated under Table 1 for the complimentary ART kits through the registration form https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Order for number of non-dorm personnel (workers/visitors) entering project site (based on individual project reference number) per month. Please make sure that you are applying as a main contractor for the project or on behalf of the company managing construction supply premises. Construction projects should have obtained BCA's approval to resume works (via Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works) and has yet to obtain TOP • Number of test kits delivered is for a month's supply. Total orders within a month should not exceed number declared to BCA via Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works 	<p>No need to register orders for ART kits with BCA.</p> <p>A separate email with information on implementing ART has been sent to your company in mid-August 2021, including instructions to collect complimentary ART test kits from Trade Association & Chambers (TACs)/BCA's Approved Training and Testing Centres (ATTC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of test kits is allocated based on the number of non-dorm workers declared to the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) in Work Permit Online (WPOL) and Employment Pass Online (EPOL) and are only given to this group of work pass holders who:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Do not reside in dormitories ➢ Do not work in construction sites and construction supply premises (main contractors will conduct ART for them before they enter the worksites) ➢ Are on Rostered Routine Testing (RRT) regime

⁷ Trained supervisors must be deployed to supervise ART operations. However, worksites which are unable to train supervisors prior to mandatory implementation date (20 Aug 2021 for large sites; 3 Sep 2021 for small sites), should proceed to commence ART operations while arranging for their assigned supervisors to be trained

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractors who are already on ART can continue to register for replenishment of test kits through the same registration form for their projects Main contractors/companies which did not receive or have insufficient complimentary ART test kits by mandatory ART implementation date (20 Aug 2021 for large sites; 3 Sep 2021 for small sites), should procure the test kits from major pharmacies and distributors in Singapore, while waiting for complimentary test kits to be delivered. Please find the list of ART test kits authorised for use in Singapore at https://go.gov.sg/bca-hsa-art-list. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of test kits indicated in BCA's email to your company is final. Companies which need more ART test kits by mandatory timeline i.e. 3 Sep 2021 should procure the test kits from major pharmacies and distributors in Singapore. Please find the list of ART test kits authorised for use in Singapore at https://go.gov.sg/bca-hsa-art-list.
<p>3) <u>Prepare for ART operations</u>. Please refer to the ART Playbook for more information on preparation for ART implementation to conform to Safe Management Measures (SMM) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards: https://go.gov.sg/bca-mom-art-playbook.</p>	
<p>An ART station must be set up for worksites with 20 or more non-dorm workers/visitors <u>daily</u> to undergo ART in the presence of the ART supervisor, before they enter the worksites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and workers/visitors at worksites (with less than 20 non-dorm workers/visitors to undergo ART <u>daily</u>) have the option to either undergo supervised self-administered ART on-site or remotely at home or place of accommodation. Supervision can be done either on-site or virtually using video conferencing tools <p>Before implementing ART, contractors managing worksites should plan the site layout to set up ART stations at the site to conform to SMM and IPC Standards. The layout plan must be retained on site.</p> <p>Details have been shared during ART training.</p>	<p>All Construction Account Workers working on non-construction worksites can undergo supervised self-administered ART at home or place of accommodation. Supervision can be done virtually using video conferencing tools.</p> <p>Before implementing the self-administered ART remotely, employers or contractors should deploy a trained swab supervisor to ensure that the workers conform to SMM and IPC standards during their self-administered swabs.</p> <p>Details have been shared during ART training.</p>