



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

MOH Circular No. 96/2022

30 August 2022

To all registered TCM practitioners

UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MASK-WEARING REQUIREMENT AT TCM ESTABLISHMENTS¹

On 24 August 2022, the Multi-Ministerial Task Force announced the next bound of changes to the Safe Management Measures (SMMs) as we take another significant step towards living with COVID-19. **This Circular highlights the updated guidance on mask-wearing requirements for TCM establishments, with effect from 29 August 2022 (inclusive).**

MANDATORY MASK-WEARING REQUIREMENT AT TCM ESTABLISHMENTS

2. While the national posture on legal requirement for mask-wearing for indoor settings will be eased, we still need to take precautionary measures for the healthcare and community care sector. This is because, the healthcare and community sectors are settings where vulnerable individuals may need to access services, and where their risk of infection may be compounded by large crowds and prolonged close contact with others who may be infected. Therefore, to ensure continuity of operations, protect staff and safeguard patients seeking and receiving TCM treatment, **mask-wearing will continue to be required at all indoor premises of TCM establishments.**

3. Mask-wearing requirements shall apply to **all staff, patients, caregivers, visitors, vendors and those who are six years old and above**, as long as they are onsite at TCM establishments, regardless whether staff are performing patient-facing or back-end functions. The same guidance applies to students on attachment, internships, clinical training, as well as volunteers and vendors who operate onsite at TCM establishments.

¹ Any premises that is covered by a practising certificate issued to a person under section 17(6) of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act 2000 and authorising that person to carry out any prescribed practice of traditional Chinese medicine under that Act at that premises.



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4. Similarly, for TCM clinics co-located with medical halls and TCMPs providing general TCM consultation from medical halls and other premises, **mask-wearing is required for all individuals six years old and above at these premises.**

5. All staff, patients, caregivers, visitors and vendors should put on a mask at TCM establishments except when they are:

- At their workstations when not interacting in person with another individual present in the same area
- Not in customer/patient-facing areas where interaction is likely to happen
- Eating, drinking or consuming medication
- Engaging in strenuous physical exercises
- Engaging in public speaking and performance and/or during photo-taking or filming
- Wearing equipment that must be worn during the course of work

6. Masks must be put on again once they are no longer engaging in any of the above activities. Individuals are encouraged to exercise social responsibility and maintain an appropriate safe distance from others when unmasked.

7. With further easing of community SMMs, we urge all registered TCM practitioners (TCMPs) and TCM service providers to continue to exercise personal and social responsibility, such as wearing face masks when interacting with the vulnerable, in crowded places or if seeking medical care when unwell. TCMPs and TCM service providers should continue to comply with relevant healthcare protocols and infection prevention and control measures.

8. We appreciate the patience and support of all registered TCMPs and TCM service providers as we work towards becoming more COVID-resilient. The above is for information and compliance, please.

9. For enquires and clarifications on the guidelines outlined in this Circular, please email gobiz_healthcare@moh.gov.sg. Thank you.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON MASK-WEARING REQUIREMENTS AT TCM ESTABLISHMENTS

1. What is considered a TCM establishment?

A TCM establishment is any premises that is covered by a practising certificate issued to a person under section 17(6) of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act 2000 and authorising that person to carry out any prescribed practice of traditional Chinese medicine under that Act at that premises.

For example: A TCM clinic, medical hall or spa/wellness centre (but not limited to), with registered TCMP(s) practicing onsite is considered a TCM establishment and mask-wearing is required.

2. Why is there a need for mask-wearing requirement at TCM establishments while other sectors have lifted the requirement for indoor premises?

TCM establishments will continue to require mask-wearing as these premises are where vulnerable persons visit to access TCM treatment. The risk of infection is compounded by crowds and prolonged close contact with others who might be infected.

Hence, to protect the vulnerable persons seeking and receiving care, mask wearing will continue to be required in TCM establishments.

3. Under what circumstances can individuals take off their mask in TCM establishments?

Masks can be temporarily removed within indoor premises during activities such as eating, drinking and consuming medication.

For employees of TCM establishments, they may remove their masks at their workstations: (a) when they are not interacting physically with others and (b) when they are not in patient-facing areas.

These exceptions for mask-wearing in indoor settings which are practiced today will continue to apply for TCM establishments with mask-wearing requirements. There is no difference in the mask-wearing requirements for TCM establishments even when the national posture for mask-wearing requirements eased on 29 August 2022.



4. Can I take off my mask when I am waiting at the outdoor area of the TCM establishment?

Individuals are strongly encouraged to wear their masks if they are waiting at an outdoor area of the TCM establishment, especially if the outdoor area is crowded. However, for patients and caregivers with acute respiratory infection symptoms, they should exercise social responsibility and keep their masks on at all times.

5. What protocol can employers take for employees who do not want to comply with the mask-wearing requirements?

Employers can consider redeploying them to suitable jobs which can be done from home or at premises where mask-wearing is not required, place them on no pay leave or, as a last resort, employers may exercise their right to contractually terminate employment if the employees do not comply with the mask-wearing requirement.

As far as possible, employers should strongly encourage their staff to comply with the mask-wearing requirement. Measures may be taken against employers who do not adhere to the mask-wearing requirement and allow their staff to work on-site without wearing a mask.

6. When will the mask-wearing requirement end?

There is no current plan to remove the mask-wearing requirement for TCM establishments. However, MOH will monitor the situation and review and update on the mask-wearing requirement.

7. As TCM establishments are premises designated as required for mask-wearing, is it an offence not to wear a mask?

Owners of TCM establishments must make sure employees, vendors, visitors and customers/patients comply with mask-on requirements.

To prevent any misunderstanding, owners of TCM establishments may wish to display a signage to inform vendors, visitors and customers/patients that they are about to enter a mask-on designated premise.

Mask-wearing at TCM establishments is required under the COVID-19 Control Order where any individual who fail to wear a mask at these premises could be committing a chargeable offence.



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8. If I wish to purchase retail items at a medical hall with a registered TCM practitioner onsite, will I be required to wear a mask?

Yes, for medical halls co-located with TCM clinic or medical halls with registered TCMPs onsite, individuals making purchases at the retail section of medical halls are required to wear masks. This is to protect the vulnerable customers when patients seek TCM consultation and treatment at these medical halls.

For avoidance of doubt, masks are not required for medical halls without TCMPs onsite.



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致：中医注册执业者

更新中医场所¹戴口罩规定的指导原则

政府跨部门工作小组于2022年8月24日宣布对安全管理措施下一步的修改，为我国迈向与2019冠状病毒疾病（COVID-19）共存跨出重要的一步。此通告重点介绍中医场所戴口罩规定的最新原则，并从2022年8月29日（即日）生效。

中医场所强制戴口罩规定

2. 虽然我国将放宽在室内强制戴口罩的法律规定，但我们仍需要对医疗保健和社区护理领域采取防范措施。这是因为较弱群体会在该场所寻求医疗护理服务，而他们的感染风险可能因为人群拥挤和与其他可能受感染的病人长时间接触而加剧。因此，为了确保中医场所业务可以持续运作、保障员工及病人的安全，**将继续规定所有在中医场所内必须戴口罩。**
3. **凡是六岁及以上，以及员工、病人、看护者、访客和供应商**，只要在中医场所室内都必须戴口罩。无论是执行面对病人的工作或是后端工作的员工，都必须戴口罩。该规定也包括实习、跟诊、临床培训的学生，以及在中医场所工作的志愿者和供应商。
4. 同样的，无论是中医诊所与中药行同处的场所，或是有中医师在场提供一般中医咨询服务的中药行和其他场所，**在这些场所内，凡是六岁及以上都必须戴口罩。**
5. 所有员工、病人、看护者、访客和供应商都应该戴上口罩，除非他们：
 - 在自己的工作站并且没有与同一区域的其他人面对面交流

¹ 根据《中医注册法令 2000》第 17（6）条令下颁发给个人执业证书中所涵盖的任何场所，并授权该人在该场所进行法令所规定的任何中医治疗。



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- 不在可能与顾客、病人互动的区域
- 进食、饮水或服药
- 进行剧烈的体育锻炼
- 参与公共演讲和表演和/或在拍照或拍摄期间
- 穿着工作必须的装备。

6. 当他们不再从事上述任何活动时，必须重新戴上口罩。我们鼓励每个人履行社会责任，在没戴口罩时与其他人保持适当的安全距离。

7. 随着社区安全管理措施进一步放宽，我们呼吁所有注册中医师和中医服务提供者继续履行个人和社会责任，例如在与较弱群体互动时、在人潮拥挤的地方或身体不适时，都应该戴上口罩。中医师和中医服务提供者应继续遵守冠病医疗方案和感染预防与控制措施。

8. 我们感谢全体注册中医师和中医服务提供者的耐心和支持，协助我们迈向与冠病共存。以上资料供参考及遵循。

9. 若对此通告有任何疑问，请发送电邮至 gobiz_healthcare@moh.gov.sg。谢谢。



卫生部医药总监
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以上文件以英语原文为准



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中医场所戴口罩规定的常见问题

1. 什么是中医场所？

中医场所指的是根据《中医注册法令 2000》第 17（6）条令下颁发给个人执业证书中所涵盖的任何场所，并授权该人在该场所进行法令所规定的任何中医治疗。

例如：有注册中医师执业的中医诊所、中药行或水疗、保健中心（但不限于此）都被视为中医场所，并必须戴口罩。

2. 为什么其他领域放宽了室内戴口罩的规定，但中医场所却需要继续戴口罩？

中医场所将继续规定戴口罩，因为这是较弱群体接受中医药治疗的场所。较弱群体的感染风险可因为人群拥挤和与其他可能受感染的病人长时间接触而加剧。

因此，为了保护接受中医治疗的较弱群体，中医场所将继续规定戴口罩。

3. 我们在什么情况下可以在中医场所摘下口罩？

在进食、饮水和服药等情况下，可以在室内暂时摘下口罩。

在下列情况下，中医场所的员工也可以在自己的工作站摘下口罩：（a）不与其他人面对面交流；及（b）不在与病人互动的区域。

以上这些室内现行口罩规定的例外条规，将继续适用于必须遵守戴口罩规定的中医场所。即使在 2022 年 8 月 29 日我国戴口罩规定放宽后，对中医场所的戴口罩规定并没有改变。

4. 在中医场所的户外区等候时，我可以摘下口罩吗？

在中医场所的户外区等候时，强烈鼓励您继续戴上口罩，特别是当户外区人群拥挤的时候。不过，对于出现急性呼吸道感染症状的病人和陪同的看护者应该负起社会责任，时刻戴上口罩。

5. 如果员工不愿意遵守戴口罩规定，雇主可以采取什么措施？

雇主可以考虑调派员工担任合适的工作，这些工作可在家中或在无须戴口罩的地方进行，亦可安排他们申请无薪假期。如果员工不遵守戴口罩规定时，作为最后手段，雇主可行使合约全力，终止雇用他们。



雇主应该尽可能强烈鼓励员工遵守戴口罩规定。如果雇主不遵守戴口罩规定，并允许员工在没有戴口罩的情况下在中医场所工作，当局可能会对雇主采取措施。

6. 戴口罩规定什么时候会终止？

目前并无计划终止中医场所戴口罩的规定。不过，卫生部将会密切留意情况，并检讨和更新戴口罩规定。

7. 由于中医场所是规定必须戴口罩的场所，不戴口罩是否犯法？

中医场所的业主必须确保员工、供应商、访客和顾客/病人遵守戴口罩规定。

为了避免任何误解，中医场所的业主可以张贴告示，通知供应商、访客和顾客/病人他们即将进入规定戴口罩的场所。

根据冠病管制令，在中医场所戴口罩是强制性的。任何在中医场所不戴口罩的人，都可能触犯刑事罪行。

8. 如果我想在有注册中医师执业的中药行购买零售物品，我是否需要戴口罩？

对于中医诊所与中药行同处的场所或有注册中医师在场执业的中药行，凡是在这些场所零售部分购物的人都必须戴口罩。这是为了在病人到中药行寻求中医治疗时，而保护较弱群体。

为避免疑义，若没有中医师在场执业，无须在这些中药行戴口罩。



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