

5th August 2021

Re: SNBA Response to the latest measures for pivoted nightlife establishment

1. The MTF has recently announced tightened measures for the pivoted nightlife establishments. The operators of the pivoted establishments will be required to put in place additional Safe Management Measures (SMMs), on top of existing ones, to further reduce public health risks and facilitate enforcement checks. Establishments must remain closed, including for takeaway operations, until they pass the checks and receive written approval to reopen.
2. SNBA believes the latest measures are primarily targeted at flushing out any remaining virus reservoir in the industry and preventing errant/fraudulent operators from continuing to further commit breaches of Covid-19 Safe Management (SMM) Measures, as follow:-

- I. Flushing out any virus reservoir in the sector.
 - Mandatory PCR test for each employee and
 - a weekly FET test in HPB's testing facilities.

We believe these requirements will be reduced once we are assured that there is no more additional risk in this sector due to the existing reservoir.

- II. Weeding out the Mala Fide operators by demanding more transparency and accountability from all operators:-
 - Ensuring Porosity of the venues to prevent clandestine activities
 - Locking the Private Rooms
 - Requiring CCTVs to be in place
 - Removing Entertainment equipment, from the line of sight of customers
 - Ensuring no delays in allowing entry for enforcement officers to enter the pivoted premises.
3. However, these additional requirements which are applied uniformly across all pivoted nightlife establishments adds further burden and operational costs to legitimate operators.
4. SNBA is deeply concerned that while the latest measures can be effective against errant operators, it may adversely impact pivoted bona-fide operators in the market. SNBA has and will continue to engage the government further to review, and tailor these additional requirements based on the merits of the operators such as its track records, geographical location, efficiency of SMMs plan etc. Nonetheless, SNBA continues to support and assist affected operators that face delays either on the statutory's inspection or the issuance of conditional permit by the authorities arising from the latest measures.

5. The nightlife industry and its activities remain not permitted to resume, and the latest measures are not representation, or indicator of future requirements when the sector gets the nod to re-open. These measures are put in place only as a temporary measure until Covid19 becomes endemic.
6. As you may be aware, the Singapore Government has made its intent to progressively re-open the country with relaxation of restrictions of activities/sectors in a safe and calibrated manner and has since made good progress on the national vaccination drive, and testing capacity. We are hopeful that the latest set of requirements will be relaxed in time to come.
7. SNBA strongly appeals to operators to stay vigilant, abide, and comply with the measures set out by government agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of patrons against COVID- 19. Ensuring compliance and safe practicing of measures would be pivotal towards the government's consideration to re-open the nightlife sector soon.
8. Once again, we want to thank you all for your patience, cooperation, and support during this tough period. For more information and assistance, please contact SNBA Helpdesk at helpdesk@snba.org.sg or 8875 2460 / 4260 / 7460.

Sincerely,

Singapore Nightlife Business Association