

CEA Ref: N03-22

Date: 18 January 2022 (Updated on 14 March 2022)

To: Key Executive Officers and Real Estate Salespersons

Dear Sir / Madam,

## [NOTICE 03-22] REMINDER ON COVID-19 WORKFORCE VACCINATION MEASURES FOR THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY INDUSTRY

- 1. This notice is issued to remind Key Executive Officers (KEOs) and real estate salespersons (RESs) of the COVID-19 workforce vaccination measures that are in place.
- 2. As you may be aware, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced the updated COVID-19 workforce vaccination measures on 26 December 2021.
- 3. Please be reminded that the workforce vaccination measures apply to self-employed persons (SEPs) which include RESs, and that the workplace is defined as any place where a person carries out work or is to work<sup>1</sup>. This means that the measures also apply to any premises (e.g. a client's home) where RESs conduct estate agency work, other than your own place of residence.
- 4. Under the prevailing Phase 2 workforce vaccination measures (<u>effective since 15 January 2022</u>):
  - a. Only RESs and employees of EAs who are fully vaccinated<sup>2</sup>, certified to be medically ineligible<sup>3</sup> or have recovered from COVID-19<sup>4</sup> within 180 days, can return to the workplace.
  - b. All unvaccinated employees and RESs will <u>not be allowed</u> to return to the workplace even if they did a Pre-Event Test (PET)<sup>5</sup> with a negative result. This also means that all unvaccinated RESs <u>will not be allowed</u> to enter their EA's office or conduct estate agency work on any premises, other than in their own place of residence. Similarly, EAs must ensure that these unvaccinated employees and RESs do not enter the EA's office unless they meet the necessary criteria.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Please click here to refer to MOM's definition of "workplace".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> MOH updated the definition of a fully vaccinated individual in February 2022. Please refer to MOH's <u>latest definition</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Please refer to the <u>documents accepted by MOH</u> for verification of medical ineligibility.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> From 1 January 2022, all recovered persons from COVID-19 who are not fully vaccinated will only be given a 180-day exemption after infection to enter the workplace. Non-fully vaccinated individuals who had recovered from COVID-19 prior to 1 January 2022 will also have their exemption period reduced from 270 days to 180 days. Such individuals who will already exceed the 180-day period as at 1 January 2022 would be granted an additional one-month grace period till 31 January 2022 to complete their vaccination regime, so as to continue being able to enter the workplace.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Please click here to refer to Ministry of Health's (MOH's) website for more details on PET.



- c. Partially vaccinated employees and RESs will still be allowed at workplaces with a negative PET result up to 31 January 2022 after which they must be fully vaccinated.
- 5. The workforce vaccination measures were implemented for EAs and RESs to create safer workplaces, protect yourselves and your family members, your clients and the community.
- 6. For more details, please refer to Ministry of Manpower's (MOM's) <u>updated advisory on COVID-19 vaccination at the workplace</u> and <u>FAQs</u>. In addition, MOM's requirements for safe management measures at the workplace can be found <u>here</u>.
- 7. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

KELLY NG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR (POLICY & PLANNING)
COUNCIL FOR ESTATE AGENCIES