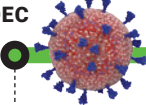


3 YEARS OF PANDEMIC

SINGAPORE'S COVID-19 TIMELINE

2019
DEC



DEC 19
Local health authorities in Wuhan, China detect cases of an unknown, severe pneumonia in hospitals.

2020
JAN

21 JAN 20
Singapore raises its Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) from green to yellow.

22 JAN 20
The Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) is set up and chaired by then-Minister for Health, Mr Gan Kim Yong.

11 JAN 20
Chinese scientists publish the genome sequence of the virus on an open-access site, allowing the National Centre for Infectious Diseases' (NCID) National Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) to develop a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to detect the new coronavirus.

23 JAN 20
Singapore diagnoses its first COVID-19 case, a 66-year-old tourist from China.

28 JAN 20
MOH's first contact tracing centre, with about 40 to 50 contact tracers, begins operations.

30 JAN 20
The World Health Organization declares the pandemic a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern".

The MTF says that all households in Singapore will receive four surgical masks each.

Local airline Scoot embarks on its first evacuation flight from Wuhan, carrying 92 Singaporean passengers.

FEB

4 FEB 20
MOH announces the first transmission, four women with no travel history to Wuhan.

7 FEB 20
Mr Gan announces at a press conference that the DORSCON level will be raised from yellow to orange, spurring panic buying at supermarkets.

9 FEB 20
The second evacuation flight out of Wuhan lands at Changi Airport. More flights are chartered in the following weeks to evacuate Singaporeans from other countries, including the United States and parts of Europe.

11 FEB 20
WHO names the virus SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2).

17 FEB 20
Stay-home notice (SHN) is introduced. MOH reactivates its network of more than 900 general practitioner (GP) clinics to provide subsidised treatment, investigations and medications for patients with respiratory symptoms.



MAR

11 MAR 20
WHO officially declares COVID-19 a pandemic.

21 MAR 20
Singapore reports its first two deaths, both being patients at NCID.

31 MAR 20
Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home becomes the first nursing home to have confirmed COVID-19 cases.

26 MAR 20
Stricter measures to limit group sizes to 10 are introduced.

Bars and entertainment outlets are ordered to close. Religious services are suspended. F&B outlets must limit dine-in group sizes to 10.

30 MAR 20
Four confirmed cases have emerged at S11 Dormitory @ Punggol, forming the first dormitory cluster.

3 APR 20
Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong appears on national television to announce that a one-month "circuit breaker" will be imposed.

5 APR 20

Two migrant worker dormitories are gazetted as isolation areas.

The Joint Task Force (Assurance) is formed to manage the dorm outbreaks.

7 APR 20

Circuit breaker measures officially kick in.

Most workplace premises are closed, home-based learning is introduced for students and all social gatherings are banned.

13 APR 20
The Therapeutics and Vaccines Expert Panel (TxVax) is set up to source for and assess promising vaccines to procure for Singapore.



2020
APR



14 APR 20
A mask mandate is implemented to curb the spread of the virus, with the exception of those doing strenuous exercise and children under two. Previously, masks were only mandatory for healthcare and frontline workers.

21 APR 20
PM Lee announces that the circuit breaker will be extended for another four weeks to 1 June.

Further closure of workplaces are implemented, including service providers like hairdressers, confectionery and beverage outlets.

28 APR 20
Swab isolation facilities comprising over 4,000 beds have been set up to house patients awaiting the results of their swab test, easing the strain on medical facilities.

19 MAY 20
The MTF confirms that the circuit breaker will end on 1 June, and that Singapore will gradually reopen in three phases. Phase 1 will begin on 2 June.

20 APR 20
Singapore reports 1,397 new cases in the dorms.

12 MAY 20
SafeEntry is made mandatory for all operating businesses.

MOH also makes the decision to test all migrant workers through a combination of PCR and serological tests to weed the virus out of the dorms, regardless of whether they are symptomatic. More than 3,000 migrant workers are tested daily over the next two months.



JUN



2 JUN 20
The circuit breaker is lifted, and Phase 1 begins.

Households can receive two visitors per day, who must be children or grandchildren from the same household.

Work from home remains the default. Dining in is still disallowed.

JUL

19 JUN 20
Phase 2 begins. People are allowed to gather in groups of five, malls can reopen and dining in is permitted again.



1 JUL 20
All individuals aged 13 and above are required to be tested for COVID-19 if they display signs of respiratory infection.

AUG



19 AUG 20
The Ministry of Manpower declares all dormitories cleared of COVID-19, including the standalone blocks in purpose-built dormitories serving as isolation or quarantine facilities.

22 AUG 20
The Joint Task Force (Assurance) stands down from dormitory operations.

SEP

17 SEP 20
The number of daily cases fall to 18, the lowest figure recorded since March 2020.

OCT

30 SEP 20
In September 2020, Singapore conducts an average of 27,200 PCR tests a day.

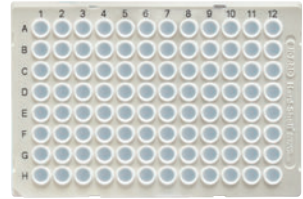


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5 OCT 20
The Expert Committee on COVID-19 Vaccination (EC19V) is formed to advise the government on how to best deploy vaccines safely across the population.

13 OCT 20
Singapore sees zero local cases for the first time since March.

NOV

2020
DEC

14 DEC 20
PM Lee announces that Singapore is ready for Phase 3 of its reopening, which will begin on 28 December. He also promises that Singapore will have enough vaccines for everyone by the third quarter of 2021.

21 DEC 20
The first batch of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines arrives at Changi Airport.

28 DEC 20
Singapore enters Phase 3. Group sizes are increased from five to eight, the capacity of premises and worship services are increased and large-scale live performances can now be piloted.

30 DEC 20
Then-senior staff nurse at NCID's Clinic J, Ms Sarah Lim, becomes the first person in Singapore to be vaccinated.

2021
JAN

8 JAN 21
PM Lee becomes the first member of Singapore's Cabinet to take the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, along with Prof Mak.

17 FEB 21
The first batch of Moderna vaccines arrive.

FEB

16 MAR 21
24 vaccination centres are in operation.

MAR

28 APR 21
Senior staff nurse Ms Jennilyn Angeles tests positive for COVID-19, becoming the first case of Singapore's first hospital cluster at Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH).

APR

16 MAY 21
Singapore reverts to tightened restrictions under Phase 2 (Heightened Alert). People are only allowed to gather in groups of two, dining in is ceased and work from home becomes the default once more.

MAY

5 MAY 21
A cleaner at Changi Airport 3 tests positive for COVID-19, and the Changi cluster grows to 26 cases in a week.

17 MAY 21
TraceTogether is made mandatory for checking into malls and schools.

JUN

6 JUN 21
The TTSH cluster is officially closed, with no new cases linked to it after 28 days.

21 JUN 21
Dining-in resumes in groups of two.

24 JUN 21
The three MTF co-chairs publish an op-ed piece in The Straits Times titled, "Living normally, with COVID-19", on how Singapore is drawing a road map to transit to this new normal.

JUL

11 JUN 21
Singaporeans between the ages of 12 to 39 can now book vaccination appointments.

14 JUN 21
Singapore moves back to Phase 3 (Heightened Alert), where groups of five are allowed to gather. Dining in is not yet allowed.

12 JUL 21
A new Delta cluster at KTV lounges is announced by MOH.

16 JUL 21
Another cluster at Jurong Fishery Port forms. It is discovered to be linked to the KTV cluster, and quickly becomes the largest active cluster, with 1,155 cases linked to it at its peak.

22 JUL 21
Singapore returns to Phase 2 (Heightened Alert) due to the growing number of cases.

8 AUG 21
National vaccination rate hits 70%. Fully-vaccinated individuals can now dine out in groups of five.

AUG

30 AUG 21
The pilot for the Home Recovery Programme (HRP) begins.

15 SEP 21
HRP becomes the default care model for fully vaccinated COVID-19 patients aged 12 to 50. Protocols 1-2-3 come into effect.

17 SEP 21
Health Minister Mr Ong cautions in a press conference that with the Delta wave, Singapore's daily cases could hit 1,000 soon, as numbers doubled every week.

18 SEP 21
1,009 new cases are reported. HRP is further expanded to fully vaccinated patients aged 51 to 69.

SEP

2021
SEP

2022
JAN

29 SEP 21
The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) sets up the Home Recovery Task Group to scale up and bolster HRP, deploying more than 450 personnel.

27 SEP 21
Singapore enters the Stabilisation Phase to slow the rate of transmission due to the deadly Delta variant.

Social gatherings are restricted to two and work-from-home becomes the default again.

24 SEP 21
Health Minister Mr Ong announces plans to prepare for 5,000 new daily cases, following consecutive days of record-high new cases of 1,457 and 1,504.

9 OCT 21
PM Lee explains the shift from zero-COVID to endemic living in a nationwide address, citing HRP as central to Singapore's "path forward to a new normal."

11 OCT 21
Streamlined protocols for HRP are introduced amid complaints of public confusion.

27 OCT 21
Singapore's daily new cases top 5,000 for the first time, with 10 dying from virus complications, bringing the total death toll to 349.

A total of 20,895 patients, or 74.3 per cent of COVID-19 community cases, are in home recovery.

31 OCT 21
Singapore has set up a total of nine COVID-19 Treatment Facilities (CTFs) with a combined capacity of 3,700 beds by end-October. Community Care Facilities (CCFs) also hit a combined capacity of 4,300 beds.



29 MAR 22
Mask-wearing is now optional in outdoor settings, though it remains the default in indoor settings.

Homes can now have up to 10 visitors at any one time, up from five.



Live performances and busking are allowed to resume too.

4 APR 22
MOH resumes in-person visits to all hospital wards and residential care homes.

22 APR 22
Singapore announces that it will adjust its Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) from orange to yellow.

MOH also removes the group size limit for mask-off activities, as well as the cap on number of visitors to a household. All workers are now allowed to return to their workplaces, and safe distancing is no longer needed between individuals and groups.

1 APR 22
Fully vaccinated travellers are allowed quarantine-free entry into Singapore under the Vaccinated Travel Framework, without having to complete any COVID-19 tests.



15 MAY 22
MOH detects two local COVID-19 cases infected with the BA.4 variant, and one case infected with the BA.5 variant.

21 JUN 22
MOH reports a rise in COVID-19 community infections owing to the Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5.

29 AUG 22
Mask-wearing is no longer required in indoor settings, except on public transport, healthcare facilities and residential care homes.



25 OCT 22
Singapore starts offering COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged between six months and four years.



10 OCT 22
All vaccination-differentiated measures are fully lifted. Individuals who are not vaccinated no longer face restrictions when dining in, entering nightlife establishments and participating in large-scale events.

21 SEP 22
MOH releases its Healthier SG white paper, a healthcare reform plan that emphasises preventive care instead of curative care in response to Singapore's ageing population.

14 OCT 22
Singapore begins offering the bivalent vaccine, which offers protection against the original wildtype virus as well as the newer subvariants.

The Omicron XBB is now the predominant subvariant circulating in the community.

2023

FEB

13 FEB 23

Singapore exits the acute phase of the pandemic and lowers DORSCON to green from yellow.

Masks are no longer mandatory on public transport. Protocols 1-2-3, as well as the MTF, are stood down.

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