

7 August 2021

## **MANDATING ANTIGEN RAPID TEST (ART) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR**

Since May 2021, BCA introduced the piloting of Antigen Rapid Tests (ART) at construction worksites to screen personnel who are not residing in dormitories (i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties). The ART is conducted under the supervision of trained ART supervisors. With data and feedback collected from pilot worksites, BCA [streamlined the ART regime](#) on 8 July to allow for easier implementation of ART at worksites. More than 130 construction sites have since onboarded the ART pilot with a total of more than 20,000 tests successfully administered at these sites.

2. A COVID-positive result was recently detected at one of the pilot ART worksites. This detection before entry to the worksite allowed for swift actions to isolate the worker immediately without compromising the safety of the worksite. This is a good example of how administering ART at construction worksites serves as an effective safeguard on top of the current rostered routine testing (RRT), in ringfencing worksites against COVID-19 transmission and lowering the risk of clusters forming. BCA has observed several COVID-positive cases at worksites recently. Majority of these infected personnel reside outside of dormitories and have most likely contracted the COVID-19 virus from the community. The implementation of ART is therefore pertinent during this time, when community transmissions are still ongoing.

### **Mandating ART for the Construction Sector**

3. Given the current COVID-19 situation, and to help the sector better prepare for ART to be integrated into work processes for businesses, BCA will be **mandating ART for the following personnel who are not residing in dormitories**<sup>1</sup>:

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

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<sup>1</sup> ART will be progressively introduced for workers residing in dormitories (details will be shared by MOM when ready)

4. To ensure that works can continue with minimal disruptions, the mandatory ART will be implemented in two stages. Please refer to Table 1 below:

**Table 1**

Stage	Types of works	Timeline for mandating ART
Stage 1	<b>Construction Projects with project value &gt; \$3 mil and Construction Supply Works Premises <sup>2</sup> (Large Sites)</b>	<b>20 Aug 2021 (Fri)</b> (place order for ART kits by 13 Aug)
Stage 2	<b>Construction Projects with project value ≤ \$3 mil (Small Sites)</b>	<b>3 Sept 2021 (Fri)</b> (place order for ART kits by 27 Aug)
	<b>Other construction account workers (CAWs) working on non-construction worksites</b> [e.g. renovation, lift and escalator installation works, minor works, repair and re-decoration works]	<b>3 Sep 2021 (Fri)</b> (separate email with details will be sent to companies)

**Stage 1 – by 20 August 2021**

**a) Large Worksites with Project Value > \$3 million**

**b) Construction Supply Works Premises**

**All large worksites with project value of more than \$3 million and all construction supply works premises will be required to implement and administer ART to screen personnel who are not residing in dormitories (i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties) before they enter the worksites, by **20 August 2021**.**

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<sup>2</sup> 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

## Stage 2 – by 3 September 2021

a) Small Worksites with project value ≤ \$3 mil

b) 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)

All small worksites with project value of \$3 million or less will be required to implement and administer ART to screen personnel who are not residing in dormitories (i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties) before they enter the worksites, by **3 September 2021**.

For **companies with CAWs working on non-construction worksites** or projects which do not require BCA's approval in Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works to resume works (e.g. Lift and escalator installation works, renovation, minor works, repair and re-decoration works), **a separate circular will be emailed to you [by] mid-August 2021, with further information on ART implementation.**

### **ART Requirements and Frequency Table**

5. Details of the ART requirements and frequency of administering ART on top of the current RRT regime, are summarised in Table 2 below:

**Table 2**

<b>Personnel on RRT regime</b>		<b>(i) Workers/Visitors entering construction worksites / construction supply works premises</b>  <b>(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)</b>
<b>Reside in dorm<sup>3</sup></b>		ART will be progressively introduced for workers residing in dormitories (details will be shared by MOM when ready)
<b>Reside in Private Residential Premises / HDB</b>	<b>Vaccinated</b> (at least 2 weeks after 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose)	ART is required • ART on Day 7 of the 14-day RRT cycle*
	<b>Unvaccinated</b>	ART is required • 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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)

6. Personnel exempted from RRT are not required to be on ART. This includes recovered personnel (within 270 days from their date of symptoms onset or detection of infection), and personnel working in company corporate office premises and not entering the worksites.

7. An ART scheduling feature is available in SGWorkPass, FWMOMCare and Safe@Work for Migrant Workers to remind them on the dates for their next ART test. This feature will not affect their AccessCode status until further notice.

### **Implementing ART for Construction Worksites and Construction Supply Works Premises)**

8. Details on how to onboard and implement ART are as follows:

a. Training of ART Supervisors

BCA Academy has developed training courses to support the implementation of ART testing regime for the construction workforce (including CAWs on non-construction worksites) under the supervision of competent ART supervisors. Assigned ART supervisors have to complete and pass the relevant course to implement and oversee ART operations, as follows:

<b>Profile of ART Supervisors</b>	<b>Course Name</b>
ART Supervisors working at construction worksites	ART Swabbing and Supervision for Built Environment*
ART Supervisors of non-construction worksites or premises	ART Self-Swab Supervision for Built Environment (Non-Construction Worksite)

*\*Training places will be prioritised for up to 2 ART Supervisors per project reference; Supervisors must complete and pass the course by 3 Sep 2021*

For more information and to register, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/bcaa-art-training>

b. Preparing the site layout plan

**An ART station must be set up for worksites with 20 or more non-dorm workers/visitors daily** to undergo ART on site **in the presence of the ART supervisor, before they enter the worksites**. Before implementing ART, contractors managing worksites should plan the site layout to set up ART stations at the site to conform to Safe Management Measures and Infection Prevention and Control Standards. The layout plan must be retained on site. Please refer to the ART Playbook for more information on ART site layout plan preparation: <https://go.gov.sg/bca-mom-art-playbook>.

All Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and workers/visitors at small worksites with less than 20 non-dorm workers/visitors daily **have the option** to remotely administer their ART at home or place of accommodation with virtual supervision.

c. Ordering of ART self-test kits

Contractors managing worksites and construction supply works premises can register their orders by the dates indicated under Table 1 for the free ART kits (started since May 2021 and for very limited remaining period) through the registration form <https://go.gov.sg/bca-art-apply>. The registration form will require the following information:

- Estimated number of personnel who are participating in the ART self-test (personnel who are not residing in dormitories i.e. those residing in HDB and private residential properties).
- Please order the number of test kits based on the number of non-dorm workers declared to BCA via Application to Restart Construction Works and Supply Works.

d. Uploading of ART Results

ART supervisors and/or employers of workers/visitors entering site should upload their ART results for them, 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-art-info> for more information on uploading ART results.

### **Grace Period for Large Sites who Register by 13 August 2021**

9. Contractors that register before 13 August 2021 will receive a follow-up email with information on the delivery of ART self-test kits, once the application is processed. For large sites that do not receive the ART kits in time to meet mandatory implementation by 20 August 2021 due to surge in demand (orders can take up to more than 1 week to be delivered to the worksite), the worksite will be given a further grace period to implement ART.

10. We urge companies to register for ART implementation as soon as possible, to further secure and safeguard high-risk worksites against possible COVID-19 transmissions.

### **For Updates and Information**

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

Yours faithfully

GRACE MUI  
GROUP DIRECTOR, MANPOWER STRATEGY AND PLANNING  
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY