

OPEN UP SECTORS RESPONSIBLY USING SCIENCE AND DATA-BASED SOPS

REFSA'S TAKE

- The purpose of the FMCO is to buy time. It is by no means a sustainable solution
- Overall, the 4-phase NRP is vague as there is no clear pandemic exit strategy
- There should not be any economic sector which is deemed too risky to open
- Instead, the focus should be on giving the right tools, guidance and ability to open safely and responsibly using sensible SOPs



Solution: Roll out a comprehensive recovery plan which uses <u>science and data-based SOPs</u>.

Here's how:



HOW TO SELECTIVELY OPEN SECTORS

Rather than a blanket, one-size fits all approach, the government should proactively help sectors to reopen safely again. This can be done through science-based SOPs:

Dynamic

- Update SOPs regularly with inputs from industry players, stakeholders, and data from the field
- Tailor SOPs to the risk of transmission of different clusters and industries

Consistent

 SOPs enforced must be consistent and no double standards in implementations of different clusters and industries

Public-Private Cooperation

 Encourage and support private sector to develop comprehensive and detailed SOPs to operate safely



The transitions into phases 2 and 3 of the NRP should be accompanied by creative solutions to allow suitable sectors to be opened up.

OUTDOOR SPACES





United States

 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined a list of outdoor activities that are safe for unvaccinated people. These include outdoor exercise with the same household (mask not needed) and small outdoor gatherings (mask needed).

United Kingdom

 Practiced the 'rule of six' during the first stage of easing its lockdown, which allowed six people from different households to meet outdoors.





INDOOR SPACES



SOPs should evolve to account for indoor air quality. Draft a workable and sensible SOP using technology is crucial.



<u>Belgium</u>

 The COVID-19 Commissariat calls for CO2 content in indoor spaces not to exceed 1200 ppm under any circumstances, as a proxy for the air quality and hence the risk of aerosol transmission of the virus. They also employ a specialised Ventilation Task Force to monitor ventilation and air quality.



INDOOR & OUTDOOR SPACES

WHAT ABOUT MALAYSIA?

- By cross-referencing the MySejahtera data with tracing data, sectors with a low incidence of transmission can be identified and gradually reopened with SOPs in place. This data- and science-driven approach should be applied to all sectors.
- Work with air conditioning sector to draft sensible SOPs using technology.
- Crowd control in shopping malls: use of data analytics to track the number of customers and associated air quality in any given premises.
- Old school method of limiting people by distributing tags at entrance and exit of malls.

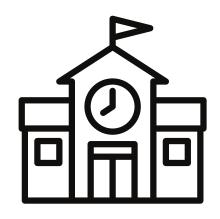




SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

Schools

- Reopen schools in stages based on the degree of substitutability between home-based and classroom learning
- Enforce strict SOPs such as physical distancing and masks in classrooms
- Prioritise vaccination for teachers and school going students >12 years old





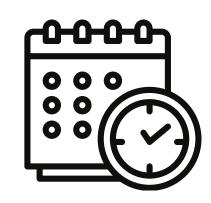
<u>Cautious reopening to international travel</u>

- Organise events with the principle of a bubble, e.g. used by Euro 2020 football championship
- Admit people, even abroad, to a geographically restricted area.
- Only allow those who are vaccinated or has proof of negative tests.



FINETUNE THE NRP: APPLICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE, CONSISTENT, AND DYNAMIC SOPS

The NRP needs to provide detailed information on scheduled reopenings. Portugal's Lockdown Easing Plan is a great example!





Improve decision making process.

No more U-turns and flip flops
please!

As we continue to vaccinate the population, there is room to adjust SOPs to reflect the rising vaccination rate.





WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Should vaccinated individuals be allowed to more social and economic activities using a "vaccine passport? What activities should the vaccinated public be allowed to participate in? Let us know your thoughts in the comments section!

ABOUT #PROJEKMUHIBAH

Projek Muhibah introduces ten policies to address the socio-economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia. The goal is to help Malaysia build back better, towards a more resilient and equitable economy, a more economically secure workforce, and a stronger and more supportive community.

Visit www.refsa.org/projek-muhibah for more information.



REFERENCES

https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcarepharmaceuticals/malaysia-declares-nationwidelockdown-covid-19-cases-spike-2021-05-10/

https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/rule-of-6-lockdown-meet-outdoors-social-distancing-march-29/

