Can my family of more than 8 people dine out together?

Members of the same household must still follow limit on group size in all public settings

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As Singapore enters the third day of phase three of its reopening, more people are making plans to go out in larger groups of eight, up from the previous limit of five. But some are unsure if patrons are allowed to share tables when dining out, while keeping to the rule of eight. Here are answers to this and other questions.

Q: Am I allowed to share a table with other diners at hawker centres, especially during peak hours when it is more crowded?
A: An 8m safe distance must be kept between different dining groups, so long as they do not put tablecloths between them.

Q: My household consists of more than eight people. Can we all go out together since we are from the same household?
A: As it is difficult to easily tell in a public setting if a group of more than eight is from the same household, residents will need to adhere to the group size limits in public settings when going out together, even if they come from the same household.

Q: Keeping to group size limits in public settings is important so as to not inadvertently encourage others, who may come from different households, to gather in groups that are larger than eight.
A: The group size limit is meant to minimise interaction and the risk of transmission across different households.

Q: Do I need to maintain the same safe distance from other groups while queuing?
A: Yes. Associate Professor Alex Cook, vice-dean of research at the National University of Singapore's Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, explains: "With greater easing of restrictions, more mingling of people in larger groups, and potential easing of border restrictions, for more travel in and out of the country, the number of Covid-19 cases can be expected to increase slightly."

Q: How can we ensure our small clusters that might mushroom and lower the chances of community spread between groups, while still adhering to safe distancing measures?
A: Enforcement officers will assess the facts of each case carefully. However, they will not hesitate to take action against egregious breaches.

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