

SOCIAL DISTANCING

How Does It Look Like?

One of the most apparent feature of the ‘new normal’ is **social distancing**. It is said that until a vaccine is found, forms of distancing restrictions could last for more than a year ([WEF, Apr 2020](#)).



Social distancing requires cooperation from multiple parties – owners of physical infrastructure and facilities to ensure that their spaces meet distancing requirements, individuals to ensure that they adhere to such distancing measures, and the authorities to provide effective guidelines and enforcement.



In this Snapshot, we explore how social distancing looks like – from **eateries, retail, religious activities and celebrations** as well as **technologies** that are being deployed. Indeed, it's time when we ask ourselves - what it means to be **social beings**?

SOLUTIONS SNAPSHOT

EATERIES



Photo: [Nikkei / Akira Kodaka](#)



Photo: [Juice / Mediatik Eten](#)



Photo: [Insider / REUTERS / Athit Perawongmetha](#)



Photo: [NewYorkPost/ Burger King](#)

Eateries have been quick to implement restaurant design changes. These include clear screen [dividers](#), cosy [glasshouses](#) and inflatable [bumper tables](#).

Whereas, behavioral prompts are also utilised: giant-sized “[crowns](#)” and “[noodle](#)” hats, as well as [stuffed toys](#), [mannequins](#) and [cardboard cut-outs](#) which fill empty spaces to adhere to guidelines.

RELIGIOUS AND CELEBRATORY EVENTS



Photo: [Malay Mail / Shafwan Zaidon](#)



Photo: [New Straits Times / Bernama](#)



Photo: [The Star / Raja Faisal Hishan](#)



Photo: [Dinas Bridal / Facebook](#)

Families celebrated Eid Al-Ftr in [public spaces](#) and connected digitally through [video calls](#). Experiences of carrying out Eid prayers at home was trending on social media mass prayers in mosques were only allowed within green zones, limited to a maximum of 30 persons.

Wesak Day devotees celebrated online with e-Wesak [services](#) and [programmes](#) being hosted by respective communities. A couple opted for a “[drive-thru](#)” wedding ceremony.

RETAIL



Photo: [StraitsTimes / Seacon Square / Facebook](#)

Thailand’s [foot-operated mall lifts](#) were widely praised. Customers will also be alerted to keep a safe distance through a [digital signage](#).

GADGETS



New Zealand launched a “[digital diary](#)” app. said to be only for the individual – their device, their data, their information. Wearable tech is also fast gaining traction where these [bracelets](#) buzz when people stand too close.