

**BELIZE:**

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID-19) REGULATIONS, 2020.**

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**BELIZE:**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**No. 95 of 2020**

*REGULATIONS made by the Director of Health Services, with the approval of the Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 83 of the Public Health Act, Chapter 40 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, and all other powers thereunto him enabling.*

*(Gazetted 30th June, 2020.)*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID-19) REGULATIONS, 2020.**

2. For the purposes of these Regulations-

Interpretation.

“**BPO**” means Business Process Outsourcing;

“**COVID-19**” means the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCov), which is an infectious disease caused by a virus which, having emerged during 2019, was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on the 11th March, 2020;

“**public transportation**” means any form of transportation available to the public, which runs on fixed or established routes and charges a fare;

“**security forces**” means any member of the Coast Guard, Belize Police Department, or Belize Defence Force;

“**social distancing**” includes refraining from touching one another and maintaining a distance of no less than six feet from other persons.

Application.

**3.** These Regulations shall apply to the entire country of Belize.

Wearing of masks.

**4.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 every person shall wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering at all times,

provided that children under the age of six years old shall not be required to wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1) a person shall not be required to wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering if that person is—

- (a) at a private residence;
- (b) exercising;
- (c) engaging in any sporting activity;
- (d) swimming;
- (e) driving alone or driving with immediate family members;
- (f) riding a motorcycle or bicycle;
- (g) the priest, pastor, member of the choir, or other person conducting the service or sermon of a church or other place of worship; or
- (h) at a restaurant.

**5.**-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 every person shall practice social distancing.

Social  
distancing, etc.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1) the following persons shall not be required to practice social distancing—

- (a) persons of the same party swimming;
- (b) persons engaged in any sporting activity;
- (c) persons attending a church service or other place of worship;
- (d) persons of the same party seated together at a restaurant, bar, casino or other similar establishment;
- (e) persons at a discotheque or nightclub;
- (f) employees at a business or office, including government office, where the square footage of the building in proportion to the number of employees, does not allow for the observance of social distancing protocols,

provided that all such employees shall wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

**6.**-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, every business and office, including government offices, shall abide by social distancing protocols if the square footage of that business or office allows for persons to maintain a distance of six feet from other persons.

Social  
distancing  
protocols  
and other  
requirements  
for businesses  
and offices.

(2) If the square footage of a business or office, including a government office, allows for persons to maintain a distance of six feet from other persons, that business or office shall–

- (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing of no less than six feet in or outside their business;
- (b) determine the number of persons that may be permitted in the establishment at any one time, provided that the determined number is proportionate to the square footage of the establishment and the social distancing protocols to be observed;
- (c) place distance markers six feet apart, indicating where each customer must stand in a line at a check out point;
- (d) place distance markers six feet apart on the outside of the establishment, indicating where customers must stand while waiting to enter the establishment.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1)–

- (a) every restaurant, bar or similar business shall–
  - (i) maintain a minimum distance of six feet between tables; and
  - (ii) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing of no less than six feet in or outside the business; and
- (b) every BPO company or business shall–
  - (i) maintain, at any given time, a number of employees that is proportionate to the square footage of the establishment; and

(ii) observe social distancing protocols.

(4) Every BPO shall install or appoint a special internal auditor for COVID-19 who shall submit a written weekly report to the Ministry of Health detailing—

- (a) the number of employees of the BPO and the number of employees who presented themselves to work during the reported week;
- (b) the number of floors being utilized for the operation of the BPO;
- (c) the number of supervisors per floor during the reported week;
- (d) the number of employees who call in sick and who are working on a rotational basis;
- (e) the protocols being implemented and observed by the BPO;
- (f) any other information required by the Ministry responsible for health.

(5) The Ministry responsible for health may carry out spot checks and inspections of any BPO to ensure compliance with these Regulations.

(6) A BPO found to be in contravention of any provision of these Regulations is liable to immediate closure of the BPO by Notice served on the BPO under the hand of the Director of Health Services.

7.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19—

Transportation.

- (a) every person travelling on public transportation shall wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering for the duration of the travel; and
- (b) no person who is not wearing a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering, shall be allowed to board any means of public transportation.

(2) The provision of public transportation by any means is limited to seating capacity.

(3) While social distancing of six feet shall not be observed on any public transportation, every operator of public transportation shall have a hand sanitizer for use by every passenger.

(4) Every person travelling on a bus is required to purchase a ticket which will entitle the holder to queue up, observing social distancing of six feet between persons, for an orderly boarding of the bus.

(5) Every operator of public transportation arriving at a terminal in Belize shall instruct the passengers to dis-embark and oversee the sanitization of the said means of public transportation by personnel on site at the terminal.

(6) Prior to boarding any means of public transportation at a terminal, every passenger shall wash and sanitize his hands at the conveniences provided at the terminal, and where passengers are picked up elsewhere than a terminal where proper sanitization of hands could not occur, every passenger boarding that public transportation shall sanitize his hands using hand sanitizer that is provided by the operator of the public transportation as required under sub-regulation (3).

(7) Without prejudice to the foregoing, all passengers and public transportation providers shall abide by guidelines issued by the Ministry responsible for health, prior to boarding or disembarking from any means of public transportation utilized.

**8.**—(1) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations or incites or attempts to incite any other person to contravene any of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) or to imprisonment for two (2) years.

Offence and  
penalty.

(2) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offence under these Regulations is liable to imprisonment for a period of two years.

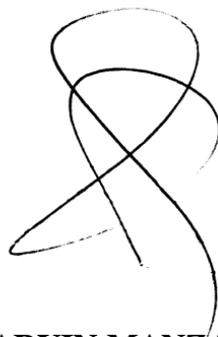
(3) It shall be the duty of every member of the security forces to enforce, using force if necessary, compliance with these Regulations and with any order, rules instruction or condition lawfully made, given or imposed by any officer or other person under the authority of this regulation, and for such purpose any member of the security forces may enter any premises, board any ship or aircraft, without a warrant.

(4) Any member of the security forces may arrest, without a warrant, any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to have committed any offence against these Regulations or any order, rules instruction or condition lawfully made, given or imposed by any officer or other person under the authority of this regulation.

**9.** These Regulations come into force on the 1st day of July, 2020.

Commencement.

**MADE** by the Director of Health Services this 30th day of June, 2020.



**DR. MARVIN MANZANERO**

**APPROVED** by the Minister responsible for health this  
30th day of June, 2020.



**HON. PABLO MARIN**  
*Minister of Health*