

BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

NO. 55 OF 2020

Arrangement of Regulations

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BELIZE:

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No. 55 of 2020

REGULATIONS made by the Governor-General in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 18(9) of the Belize Constitution, Chapter 4 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, and all other powers thereunto him enabling.

(Gazetted 17th April, 2020.)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

BELIZE CONSTITUTION (EMERGENCY POWERS) REGULATIONS, 2020.

2. For the purposes of these Regulations—

Interpretation.

“**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;

“**emergency area**” means the area declared to be under a public state of emergency under the Proclamation;

S.I. 45 of 2020.

“**essential service**” means the offices listed in Schedule I;

Schedule I.

“**essential worker**” means an employee of an essential service;

“**independent private practice**” means a private medical practice operated by a medical practitioner on his own;

“medical institutions” includes the mental hospital and all public hospitals, dispensaries, all hospitals in, or attached to, any prison or public institution in Belize;

“medical officer” includes the Director of Health Services and medical practitioners in the public service;

Act No. 28 of
2013.

“medical practitioner” means any physician or surgeon who is registered in accordance with section 7 of the Medical Practice Act;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for National Security;

S.I.45 of 2020.

“period of public emergency” means the period stated in the Proclamation issued by the Governor-General and during which the Proclamation remains in force and effect;

“period of quarantine” means the period between April 11th 2020 and April 25th 2020, both dates inclusive;

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

“public utility” includes services of electricity, water, telecommunications, cable and internet service providers;

S.I. 45 of 2020.

“Proclamation” means the Proclamation made by the Governor-General under section 18 of the Belize Constitution declaring that a state of public emergency exists in the entire country of Belize;

CAP. 41.

“Quarantine Authority” means the Director of Health Services as designated by section 3 of the Quarantine Act;

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

“social distancing” includes the practice of staying home, avoiding crowds and refraining from touching one another and maintaining a distance of no less than three feet from other persons.

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

Application.

4.–(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 and maintaining peace and public order, a curfew is hereby imposed during the hours of eight o’clock p.m. until four fifty-nine a.m. of the following morning for the entire country of Belize during the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation.

Curfew.
S.I. 45 of 2020.

(2) For the purposes of sub-regulation (1), no person shall be on the streets or in any public place and on any public road between the hours specified in that sub-regulation.

(3) Sub-regulations (1) and (2) shall not apply to any members, who are on duty, of the security forces, Customs and Excise Department, Department of Immigration Services only, any frontline health care provider on duty working for the Ministry responsible for health (including hospitals which are statutory bodies), nor to any other essential worker who possesses a pass badge issued by the Minister responsible for national security.

5.–(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 and subject to sub-regulations (2) and (3), a person shall not loiter, wander, assemble, or otherwise move in any public place and on any public road during the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:59 p.m.

Restriction
of movement
outside of
curfew.

(2) During the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation, a person’s right to move in any public place and on any public road–

S.I. 45 of 2020.

- (a) during the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:59 p.m. is hereby restricted to movement for the purpose of—
- (i) purchasing essential needs;
 - (ii) attending for medical or veterinary emergencies;
 - (iii) emergencies;
 - (iv) an essential worker or employee of an approved business going to or from work;
 - (v) a home-health care provider of services to sick and elderly only, going to and from work;
 - (vi) an essential worker acting within the scope of his duties, including but not limited to security guards patrolling, whether on foot or by conveyance, agricultural or factory workers, delivery services or other similar operations requiring the movement of personnel for the effective conduct of the business or operations;
- (b) during the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. is hereby restricted to movement for the purpose of exercising by jogging, running or walking only,
- provided that in so doing, a person shall practice social distancing protocols and maintain a minimum of three feet distance between persons while jogging, running or walking.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (2), movement outside of curfew is restricted on Sundays to—

S.I. 54 of
2020.

(a) movement by essential workers and workers of businesses specified under regulation 9(1)(g) only, going to and from work or moving for the purposes of the effective conduct of their business operations; and

(b) movement for emergencies only.

(4) For the purposes of these regulations, movement includes movement on foot and by a conveyance of any kind, whether mechanically propelled, propelled by animals, or otherwise propelled.

(5) An officer of the security services may stop and question any person found moving with an aim to ascertain that person's motives for moving.

(6) A person stopped and questioned by an officer of the security forces between the hours specified in sub-regulation (1), who is unable to reasonably explain or prove that his reasons for movement fall within the reasons set out in sub-regulation (2), commits an offence.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations a person in possession of a pass badge issued under the hand and seal of the Minister responsible for national security shall be authorized to move freely while observing social distancing protocols, at any place or at any time, as authorized by the Minister responsible for national security.

Exception to
restrictions of
right to move.

7. During the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation, no person shall move across any district boundaries nor across localities within any district, city, town, village or community except for the purposes listed in regulation 5(2).

“Restriction on
cross district
movement and
cross locality
movement.
S.I. 45 of 2020.

Essential
services.
Schedule I.

8. For the purposes of these Regulations, the offices prescribed in Schedule I to these Regulations and the services they provide are deemed essential services.

Operations
of approved
businesses.

9.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, the following businesses, service or offices may operate during the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation only, and if that business, service or office decides to operate, that business, service or office shall operate for such periods as may be determined by the management, between the hours of-

(a) 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.-

(i) fuel stations, fuel depots, LPG suppliers, LPG depots and LPG distributors;

(ii) agro-processors, food manufacturers, and factories and manufacturers of carbonated and other beverages including spirits (but excluding potable water),

provided however that manufacturers and factories of carbonated and other beverages, including spirits (but excluding potable water) shall not operate during the period of quarantine;

(iii) agricultural and aquaculture farms;

(iv) fishing for livelihood and sustenance but not including sport fishing and leisure fishing;

(v) waste disposal and sanitation companies and auxiliary personnel;

(vi) productive sector industries, personnel and auxiliary workers (potable water production; agricultural workers);

(vii) public transportation providers,

provided however that no public transportation providers except for taxis shall operate during the period of quarantine,

provided further that taxis allowed to operate under this paragraph shall not operate from any taxi stand;

(b) 5:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., bakeries and tortilla factories;

(c) 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., markets (agricultural produce, fish and meat);

(d) 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the following establishments—

(i) pharmacies;

(ii) hotels, villas and other rental accommodations,

provided that hotels, villas and other rental accommodations shall not be open for general business to the public and shall be opened only for the purposes of maintenance and housekeeping by its employees;

and provided further that where a hotel, villa or establishment houses a

restaurant, that restaurant shall offer only services of delivery during the period of quarantine;

- (iii) store front outlets for essential businesses (public utilities companies) solely for the purposes of operating as bill collection agents;
- (iv) service of take-out, delivery or drive thru' facility, at restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments,

provided however that service of take-out or drive thru' facility only, at restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments shall not operate during the period of quarantine;

- (v) international delivery services by international delivery service providers (such as DHL, Federal Express (FedEx) Amerijet, etc.);
- (vi) domestic delivery services of goods;
- (vii) wholesalers of goods and services directly related to an approved business allowed to operate under these Regulations–

provided that the wholesalers shall operate only to supply, to an approved business allowed to operate under these Regulations, by delivery only but such wholesaler shall not be open for business to the general public,

provided further that where a business is both a wholesaler and a retailer shall, that business shall, for the purposes of these Regulations, operate as a wholesaler only;

(viii) the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre (and any research undertaken or being done),

(e) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the following establishments–

(i) convenience stores, food stores, supermarkets, meat shops, butchers, distributors of carbonated and other beverages, including spirits (excluding potable water) and food;

(ii) mechanic shops, garages and auto parts stores,

provided however that mechanic shops, garages and auto parts stores shall not be open to the general public during the period of quarantine, but during that period, shall provide services to the essential services sector;

(f) 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., financial institutions (including commercial banks, credit unions, money lending institutions, money transfer institutions, pawn shops;

(g) twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week–

(i) food mills;

- (ii) sugar, citrus and other approved food production factories;
- (iii) oil production and drilling for oil exploration;
- (iv) port operations and services connected with the loading and unloading of ships and aircrafts, and delivery to and from ports;
- (v) public utilities and independent energy producers which provide energy to public utilities;

(h) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., all offices listed in Schedule II,

Schedule II.

provided that those offices shall be closed to the public during the period of quarantine.

(2) The following establishments shall close and remain closed during the period of quarantine—

- (a) construction and construction sites (private and commercial);
- (b) hardware stores.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in sub-regulation (1), no businesses, services or offices except for those listed under sub-regulation (1) (g), shall operate on a Sunday.

Closure of businesses.

10. For the avoidance of doubt, the following establishments shall remain closed until further notice for the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19—

- (a) casinos and gaming establishments;
- (b) spas, beauty salons and barber shops;
- (c) gymnasiums (gyms), sporting complexes;
- (d) discotheques, bars, rum shops and night clubs;
- (e) restaurants, saloons, diners, and other similar establishments,

provided that restaurants, saloons diners and other similar establishments may operate to offer take out services only.

11. For the purposes of these Regulations, every person shall practice social distancing.

Social
distancing.

12. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, every business and office operating under these Regulations shall abide by social distancing protocols and shall—

Social
distancing
protocols.

- (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing of no less than three feet (3ft.) 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) within twenty-four hours of the commencement of these regulations, place distance markers three feet apart, indicating where each customer must stand on a line at a check out point;

- (d) within twenty-four hours of the commencement of these regulations, place distance markers three feet apart on the outside of the establishment, indicating where customers must stand while waiting to enter the establishment.

Approved
businesses.

13.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, employers of approved businesses listed in regulation 8, if they operate pursuant to these Regulations, shall implement measures to allow their employees to operate remotely where that business is one which the duties of the employee are capable of being performed from the employee's place of residence.

(2) Employees who are permitted to work remotely under sub-regulation (1) shall-

- (a) be available for work during that employee's normal working hours;
- (b) stay at home and observe social distancing protocols and curfew impositions; and
- (c) report to the employer as required or instructed.

(3) Where an employee's assigned tasks at his place of employment can only be discharged at his place of employment, that employee shall report to work unless instructed by the employer not to report to the place of work in order to try to contain the spread of COVID-19.

(4) Where an employee is required to report for work under this regulation-

- (a) the employee shall report to work between the hours specified in regulation 8(a) (b) (c) or (d), as the case may be; and

- (b) the employer shall implement social distancing protocols under regulation 11 in addition to safety measures advised by the Ministry with responsibility for health.

14. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, no person shall host nor attend—

Restriction on social activities.

- (a) a private party which includes any person from outside of the immediate household of the house occupant;
- (b) a recreational or competitive sporting event;
- (c) a wedding which hosts ten or more persons other than the bride, bridegroom, official witnesses and the marriage officer;
- (d) a banquet, ball or reception;
- (e) any social event;
- (f) any other ceremony of public worship in any facility or public place which involves the participation of any member of the general public or a congregation;
- (g) a funeral, except ten members of the immediate family and at least one officiant and essential mortuary staff; or
- (h) a meeting of a fraternal society, private or social club or civic association or organization.

15.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, all ports of entry shall be and remain closed during the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation.

Restriction on travel.
S.I. 45 of 2020.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), the following services are excepted from the travel restrictions–

- (a) cargo flights and cargo shipments;
- (b) commercial courier flights;
- (c) emergency medical flights approved by the Director of Health Services in consultation with the Minister responsible for national security;
- (d) emergency flights approved by the Minister responsible for national security in concurrence with the Department of Civil Aviation.

**Mandatory
quarantine.**

16.– (1) No Belizean shall be allowed entry through any port of entry unless that Belizean–

- (a) is returning from abroad with proof of having received urgent medical care;
- (b) is required to be in Belize to assist health officials in Belize in urgent medical situations.

(2) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID 19, a Belizean allowed entry pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall be put into immediate mandatory quarantine at the direction of the Quarantine Authority–

- (a) at his own expense;
- (b) at a place pre-determined and identified as properly suited for the purpose of quarantine; and
- (c) for a period of time as directed by, the Quarantine Authority and in accordance

with the guidelines of the Ministry with responsibility for health.

(3) A person who develops flu-like symptoms and who reasonably suspects he is infected with COVID-19 or that he may have had contact with someone who has travelled to or from a country affected by COVID-19–

(a) shall immediately inform the Ministry with responsibility for health; and

(b) at the person's own expense, shall be put into immediate mandatory quarantine at the direction of, and for a period of time as directed by, the Quarantine Authority and in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry responsible for health.

(4) A directive by the Quarantine Authority to quarantine a person under this regulation shall be given in writing and addressed to the person being put in quarantine specifying requirements at sub-regulation (2) and shall include any guidelines or additional measures of the Ministry with responsibility for health.

(5) The Quarantine Authority shall direct that a log be kept of every person put into quarantine under this regulation and that details be recorded of the person's progress during the period of time under quarantine.

(6) Upon completion of the time period of quarantine under this regulation, if the person exhibits no flu-like symptoms, the person may be released at the direction of the Quarantine Authority.

(7) Where a person kept under quarantine develops flu-like symptoms, the Quarantine Authority shall direct that the person be put into immediate isolation at a designated hospital or other isolation centre.

(8) The Quarantine Authority may issue any directives or institute any administrative measures necessary in carrying out the mandate of this regulation.

Restriction on independent private practice during period of public emergency. S.I. 45 of 2020.

17. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, for the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, no medical officer employed by the Government of Belize, during the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation, shall engage in independent private practice.

Duty of medical engaged in independent private practice to report.

18. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, for the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, every medical practitioner engaged in independent private practice, during the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation, shall report to the Director of Health Services, or his designate, every patient which he has attended to which is exhibiting flu-like symptoms or who is exhibiting respiratory conditions or experiencing respiratory complications or other similar respiratory issue.

Offence and penalty.

19.—(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.

(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 services 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.

20.—(1) The Minister with responsibility for national security may make orders and rules for the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19.

Power to make orders and rules.

(2) Such orders and rules under sub-regulation (1) shall be made by Order published in the Gazette and shall have effect as law from the date thereof and for a period not being longer than the period of public emergency declared by Proclamation.

S.I 45 of 2020.

21.—(1) The following Orders are hereby suspended for the duration of these Regulations—

Suspension of Orders, Proclamation and Regulations.

(a) Quarantine (COVID-19 Emergency Measures) Order, as amended, 2020;

S.I. No. 38 of 2020.
41 of 2020.
44 of 2020.

(b) A Proclamation Declaring a State of Public Emergency in Ambergris Caye, Belize District and its amendment; and

S.I No. 36 of 2020.
39 of 2020.

(c) Belize Constitution (Emergency Powers) Ambergris Caye Regulations, 2020.

S.I. No 37 of 2020.

(2) The Orders referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be reinstated upon effluxion of time of these Regulations or until revoked, whichever is earlier.

Repeal and savings.

22.—(1) Upon the commencement of these Regulations, the Belize Constitution (Emergency Powers) Regulations, 2020, Statutory Instrument No. 46 of 2020, as amended by Statutory Instruments Nos. 47, 48, 52 and 54 of 2020, are repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding the repeal, nothing in these Regulations shall affect anything done, any proceedings taken or a right which has accrued or a liability which has been incurred under the repealed Regulations before the coming into force of these Regulations and anything done, any proceedings taken or a right which has accrued or a liability which has been incurred under the repealed Regulations shall be deemed to have been done, taken, accrued or incurred, as the case may be, under these Regulations.

Commencement and duration of regulations.

23.—(1) These Regulations come into force on signature.

(2) These Regulations shall have effect during the period of public emergency.

SCHEDULE I*[regulation 8]**Essential Services*

1. Ministry of National Security
2. Department of Border Management and Immigration Services
3. Customs and Excise Department
4. Cabinet members and members of the National Assembly
5. Medical and auxiliary services
 - (a) including veterinary services;
 - (b) services by private medical institutions including private clinics; and
 - (c) ambulance services,
6. private security services
7. public utility workers and auxiliary staff responding to emergencies
8. social workers authorized to respond to emergencies
9. sanitation workers and auxiliary staff
10. productive sector industries, personnel and auxiliary workers (potable water production, agricultural workers)
11. media (workers supporting radio, newspapers and online media services)

12. Belize Port Authority
13. Office of the Governor-General
14. The National Fire Service
15. Belize Electricity Limited
16. Belize Water Services Limited
17. Belize Telemedia Limited
18. Speednet Communications Limited (Smart)

SCHEDULE II

[regulation 9(h)]

1. Office of the Prime Minister
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Attorney General's Ministry (including the Belize Companies and Corporate Affairs Registry, the Belize Intellectual Property Office, Vital Statistics Unit)
4. The Judiciary of Belize
5. Ministry of Health (including) Central Medical Laboratory
6. Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation
7. Ministry of Food and Agriculture

8. Ministry of the Public Service
9. Ministry of Works
10. Department of Transport
11. Central Information and Technology Office
12. Government of Belize Press Office
13. Belize Gazette publications
14. The Belize Bureau of Standards
15. The Belize Tax Services Department
16. Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital Authority
17. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
18. National Meteorological Service
19. National Emergency Management Organization (Emergency Operations Centre)
20. Treasury Department
21. Central Bank of Belize
22. Department of Civil Aviation
23. Belize Airports Authority
24. Belize Agricultural Health Authority
25. Belize Marketing and Development Corporation

26. Social Security Board

27. Municipal Bodies (town councils and city councils)

MADE by His Excellency the Governor-General Sir Colville N. Young
this 17th day of April, 2020.



(SIR COLVILLE N. YOUNG)
G.C.M.G., M.B.E., PhD., J.P.(S)
Governor-General