

BELIZE:

PUBLIC HEALTH (REFORM) (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID-19) REGULATIONS, 2022

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BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

No. 37 of 2022

REGULATIONS made by the Minister in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 82A of the Public Health (Reform) Act, Chapter 40 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020, and all other powers thereunto it enabling.

(Gazetted 4th March, 2022.)

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Minister there is the imminent threat of further community spread of COVID-19 as a result of the numerous cases present in the countries neighbouring Belize;

AND WHEREAS, it is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from persons arriving at any port by land or water;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Minister by section 82A of the Public Health (Reform) Act, the following Regulations are made.

PART I

Preliminary

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

PUBLIC HEALTH (REFORM) (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID 19) REGULATIONS, 2022.

2. For the purposes of these Regulations—

Interpretation.

“Act” means the Public Health (Reform) Act;

“airport” means the Phillip Goldson International Airport;

“App” means a computing application developed by the Ministry responsible for health which provides users with an electronic copy of that user’s immunization card;”

“approved facility” or “approved facilities” means a sporting complex or sporting venue that has been approved to host sporting activities or events allowed under these Regulations;

“approved hotel or tourist accommodation” means a hotel or tourist accommodation that is approved by the Belize Tourism Board;

“BPO” means Business Process Outsourcing;

“COVID-19” means the disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV2 which is an infectious disease which emerged during 2019 and was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March, 2020;

CAP. 275.

“Belize Tourism Board” means the Belize Tourism Board established under section 3 of the Belize Tourism Board Act;

“Designated Officer” means any public officer employed with the Ministry of Health or the Department of Immigration or Nationality Services or any person designated by the Authority to carry out any function under these Regulations;

“Enforcement Unit” means the COVID-19 Enforcement Unit established under regulation 46;

“essential business” means any business involved in tourism, health, banking, law enforcement, agriculture or food;

Schedule I.

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

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

“foreign tourist” means any person that travels to Belize using the passport of a country other than Belize;

“frontline workers” include–

- (a) health care workers;
- (b) officers and staff of the Belize Police Department;
- (c) personnel and staff of Coast Guard;
- (d) personnel and staff of the Belize Defence Force;
- (e) teachers;
- (f) tourism workers;
- (g) officers and staff of the Customs and Excise Department;
- (h) officers and staff of the Department of Border Management and Immigration Services;
- (i) the Judiciary and staff of the Judiciary;
- (j) operators of public transportation;
- (k) officers and staff of the Transport Department;
- (l) officers of public utility services;
- (m) employees of a BPO;
- (n) officers and staff of the Department of Civil Aviation;
- (o) employees of security companies;

(p) employees of the Belize Post Office; and

(q) any person that works or is employed at any port;

CAP. 285. “hotel or tourist accommodation” means any premises being operated as a hotel or tourist accommodation in any part of Belize and licensed for that purpose under the Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Act;

Schedule II. “immunized” or “immunization” means having received the required number of doses, as specified in Column 2 of Schedule II, for any of the COVID-19 vaccines specified in Column 1 of Schedule II;

CAP. 161. “permanent resident” means a person granted permanent residency in accordance with section 21A of the Belizean Nationality Act;

“proof of immunization” means a digital copy or hard copy of a COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card issued and stamped by the Ministry responsible for health in Belize or by a medical institution approved by the Ministry responsible for health in Belize, or a similar card issued by the relevant authority of a foreign state, whether laminated or preserved in any other form;

“proprietor” means the owner or proprietor of any hotel or tourist accommodation, and the term includes any person who is responsible for the management of, or who is in control of, the hotel or tourist accommodation;

“PCR test” means a test that detects the presence of the SARS-CoV2 in an infected person’s body;

“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;

“Qualified Retired Person” means any person designated as a Qualified Retired Person under section 3 of the Retired Persons (Incentives) Act;

CAP. 62.

“Quarantine Authority” means the Director of Public Health and Wellness;

“rapid test” means a test for the rapid, qualitative detection of the nucleocapsid protein antigen from SARS-CoV2 in human nasal swab or throat swab specimen; and

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

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

Application.

PART II

Protocols

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, who–

Wearing of face masks.

(a) attends any of the following gatherings, allowed under these regulations, that are conducted indoors or in a closed space–

(i) church service;

(ii) wedding ceremony or celebration;

(iii) funeral service, wake or repass;

- (iv) social club event including a fraternal society, a civic association or organization or a private club;
 - (v) social event including a concert, dance, banquet, ball or other reception;
 - (vi) reception;
 - (vii) any other similar gathering hosted indoors or in a closed space,
- (b) accesses any of the following–
- (i) government building or office including the building or office of a statutory body;
 - (ii) business office or building;
 - (iii) shops, stores, supermarkets, hardware stores, department store, depots and any other business establishments;
 - (iv) public transportation services;

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

provided further, that neck gaiters, fishing face masks, ski masks, any closed tube of fabric or other similar face, neck or head covering that resembles any of the aforementioned types of masks or which is designed to expose only part of the face, are prohibited.

(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) outdoors in an open space;
- (c) driving alone or driving with members of the same household in a motor vehicle.

(3) No owner or manager of an office or building under sub-regulation (1) (b) shall allow any person to enter or remain in that business, office or establishment without wearing and keeping on, a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(4) It shall be a defence to any proceedings under these Regulations for an owner or manager of an office or building under sub-regulation (1) (b) to show that he took all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with sub-regulation (3).

(5) The owner or manager of an office or building under sub-regulation (1) (b) may prescribe the types of face masks or other face (nose and mouth) covering which are permissible for entry into that business, office or establishment, but which shall not include any of the types of masks prohibited under sub-regulation (1).

(6) A person commits an offence if that person—

- (a) does not wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering as required by this regulation;
or
- (b) does not wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering properly so that the face mask or other (nose and mouth) covering covers both the nose and mouth.

(7) A person who commits an offence under sub-regulation (6) shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

Social
distancing, etc.

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.

(2) A person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

Restriction of
gatherings for
social purposes.

6.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, the following gatherings for social purposes are allowed in numbers of not more than 75 *per centum* of the total capacity of the venue or building—

- (a) church service;
- (b) wedding ceremony or celebration;
- (c) funeral service, wake or repass;
- (d) sporting or other recreational event;
- (e) social club event including a fraternal society, a civic association or organization or a private club;
- (f) social event including a concert, dance, banquet, ball, expo, display, night market or other social event;
- (g) any other similar gathering.

(2) Every person attending the following gatherings for social purposes shall be required to present proof of immunization for access or entry to that gathering—

- (a) wedding celebration or party;
- (b) wake or repass;

- (c) sporting or other recreational event;
- (d) social club event including a fraternal society, a civic association or organization or private club;
- (e) social event including a concert, dance, banquet, ball, expo, display, night market, or other social event.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), members of the National Assembly and persons involved in the functioning of any sitting of the National Assembly may gather in numbers of more than 75 *per centum* of the total capacity of the venue or building at any sitting of the National Assembly.

(4) Every person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars.

7.–(1) The Minister may, on application made in writing, exempt the application of any restriction or conditions of restriction of gatherings for a social purpose under regulation 6, if the Minister considers it necessary to do so.

Exemption on the restriction of gatherings for social purposes.

(2) An exemption granted by the Minister responsible for health and wellness may be subject to such terms and conditions, or applicable only in specified circumstances or in relation to such activities as specified in the instrument granting the exemption.

(3) Every exemption shall be published in the *Gazette*.

8.–(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, every business, office or establishment allowed to operate under these Regulations, including a government office, shall–

Social distancing protocols and other requirements for businesses and offices.

- (a) abide by social distancing protocols; and
- (b) ensure that every employee wears a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

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

- (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain a distance of not less than six feet in or outside their business, office or establishment;
- (b) determine the number of persons that may be permitted in that business, office or establishment, including a government office, at any one time, provided that the determined number, shall not be more than *75 per centum* of its capacity;
- (c) place distance markers six feet apart, indicating where a customer must stand in a line at a check out point; or
- (d) place distance markers six feet apart on the outside of the establishment, indicating where a customer must stand while waiting to enter the business or office.

(3) Every shop, store, supermarket, hardware store, department store, depot and any other business establishment shall employ a Peace Officer for every floor of that shop, store, supermarket, hardware store, department store, depot and any other business establishment if the square footage of that shop, store, supermarket, hardware store, department store, depot and any other business establishment is greater than two thousand square feet.

(4) A person employed as a Peace Officer shall—

- (a) be a Justice of the Peace;
- (b) ensure compliance with these Regulations by—
 - (i) the owner of every shop, store, supermarket, hardware store, department store, depot and any other business establishment;
 - (ii) the proprietor of the land where the market is situated;
 - (iii) every person accessing services of the shop, store, supermarket, hardware store, department store, depot and other business establishment;
- (c) be paid an honorarium by the employer for the performance of his functions as a Peace Officer under these Regulations.

(5) Notwithstanding sub-regulations (1) or (2)(b), every BPO company or business allowed to operate under these Regulations shall—

- (a) operate only at 75 *per centum* of its capacity,
provided that every such person shall be immunized;
- (b) observe social distancing protocols;
- (c) ensure that every employee wears a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering;
- (d) install hand wash stations at the entrance and within the BPO company or business;

- (e) allow not more than two persons per table in the lunch of that BPO company or business;
- (f) limit the seating capacity of the lunch room of that BPO company or business to *75 per centum*.

(6) Every BPO company or business allowed to operate under these Regulations shall install or appoint a special internal auditor for COVID-19 who shall submit a written weekly report to the Ministry responsible for health detailing–

- (a) the number of employees of the BPO company or business 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 company or business;
- (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 company or business; and
- (f) any other information required by the Ministry responsible for health.

(7) In addition to the requirement under sub-regulation (6), the special internal auditor for COVID-19 shall, on the first of every month, submit a written report to the Ministry responsible for health detailing–

- (a) the name and immunization status of every employee allowed to report work in accordance with sub-regulation (5)(a); and

- (b) the name of every employee who has not been immunized as a result of a recent COVID-19 infection.

(8) The Ministry responsible for health or an officer of the security forces may carry out spot checks and inspections of any business, office or establishment allowed to operate under this regulation to ensure compliance with these Regulations.

9.–(1) Every tour operator and tour guide shall present proof of immunization prior to entering any tourist site.

Tour operators and tour guides to present proof of immunization.

(2) A tour operator or tour guide who fails to present proof of immunization shall be refused entry to the tourist site.

10.–(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, exercise by walking, running, or cycling shall be allowed subject to the following conditions–

Exercising and sports.

- (a) a person shall practice social distancing protocols and maintain a minimum of six feet distance between other persons while exercising; and
- (b) a cyclist shall ride in single file only.

(2) A person may engage in any type of sporting activity.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (2), no person shall engage in any competitive sporting activity unless immunized.

(4) A person allowed to participate in sports under this Regulation shall, while engaged in the sporting activity, be exempt from the following–

- (a) practicing social distancing; or
- (b) wearing a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(5) A person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

Closure of bars, rum shops, etc.

11. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of infectious disease COVID-19, discotheques, bars, rum shops and night clubs shall be closed.

Casinos and other gaming establishments.

12.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of infectious disease COVID-19, casinos and gaming establishments shall be allowed to operate, subject to the following conditions—

- (a) all employees shall be immunized;
- (b) only patrons that are immunized shall be allowed to enter the casino or gaming establishment, provided that each patron shall present proof of immunization upon entry to any casino or gaming establishment;
- (c) all patrons and employees shall maintain physical distancing of no less than six feet in or outside the casino or gaming establishment; and
- (d) the number of patrons allowed to enter a casino or gaming establishment shall, at any one given time, be limited to *75 per centum* of the capacity of the casino or gaming establishment; and
- (e) that all patrons and employees wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(2) The owner or operator of a casino or gaming establishment operating under this regulation shall—

- (a) ensure that gaming machines are arranged or made available to be used in a way that allows

for social distancing of six feet between patrons of the casino;

- (b) install hand sanitizing stations at the entrance and throughout the casino or gaming establishment;
- (c) install touchless hand sanitizing dispensers at every gaming table;
- (d) limit the seating capacity at gaming tables to observe social distancing;
- (e) place signs at the entrance and throughout the casino or gaming establishment, reminding patrons of social distancing protocols and the proper use of face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering;
- (f) ensure that the casino or gaming establishment is cleaned and sanitized twice a day;
- (g) ensure that gaming machines and tables are sanitized after every use;
- (h) keep a log of the name, contact number and temperature check of every patron entering the casino or gaming establishment for at least thirty days; and
- (i) any other health and safety protocols issued by the Ministry responsible for health.

(3) Every casino or gaming establishment shall employ a Peace Officer for every floor of that casino or gaming establishment.

(4) A person employed as a Peace Officer shall—

- (a) be a Justice of the Peace;

- (b) ensure compliance with these Regulations by—
- (i) the owner, operators and employees of every casino or gaming establishment;
 - (ii) the proprietor of the land where the casino or gaming establishment is situated;
 - (iii) every patron entering and inside a casino or gaming establishment.
- (c) be paid an honorarium by the employer for the performance of his functions as a Peace Officer under these regulations.

(5) The Ministry responsible for health or an officer of the security forces may carry out spot checks and inspections of any casino or gaming establishment allowed to operate under this regulation to ensure compliance with these Regulations.

Restriction on
gymnasiums.

13.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, gymnasiums shall be allowed to operate, subject to the following conditions—

- (a) gymnasiums shall be properly ventilated;
- (b) services offered shall be by appointment only;
- (c) only 75 *per centum* of the building capacity shall be allowed to be in the gymnasium at any one time;
- (d) social distancing shall be observed by all persons at the gymnasium.

(2) The owner or operator of a gymnasium operating under this regulation shall—

- (a) require that every person entering the gymnasium wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering,

provided that persons at the gymnasium shall not be required to wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering while exercising;

- (b) ensure that equipment is cleaned after every use; and
- (c) keep a log of the name, contact number and temperature check of every customer.

14.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, churches and other places of worship shall be allowed to operate in accordance with the following—

Churches and other places of worship.

- (a) no more than 75 *per centum* of its building capacity shall be in attendance at any one given time;
- (b) persons in attendance shall wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering and adhere to social distancing protocols,

provided that the priest, pastor or other person conducting the service or sermon shall not be required to wear a mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(2) Every pastor, priest or other person responsible for conducting a service or sermon shall ensure compliance with this regulation.

(3) Every pastor, priest or other person responsible for conducting a service or sermon who contravenes sub-

regulation (2) commits an offence and shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

(4) Every pastor, priest or other person responsible for conducting a service or sermon convicted of a second or subsequent offence is liable, in addition to the penalty under sub-regulation (3), closure of that church or place of worship.

Restriction on restaurants, saloons, diners, etc. and street food vendors.

15.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments holding a restaurant licence shall be allowed to operate if the employees of that restaurant, saloon, diner or other similar establishment are immunized.

(2) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, street food vendors shall be allowed to operate.

(3) Every street food vendor shall place distance markers six feet apart, indicating where a customer must stand.

(4) Every restaurant, saloon, diner or other similar establishment allowed to operate under this regulation may offer dining-in services by reservation only, for no more than 75 *per centum* of its seating capacity.

(5) Every restaurant allowed to offer dining in services under sub-regulation (4) shall observe social distancing protocols.

(6) Every restaurant, saloon, diner and other similar establishment allowed to operate under this regulation shall employ a Peace Officer who shall—

(a) be a Justice of the Peace; and

- (b) ensure compliance with these Regulations by–
- (i) the owner and employees of every restaurant, saloon, diner and other similar establishment allowed to operate under this regulation;
 - (ii) every patron accessing the restaurant, saloon, diner or other similar establishment.

16.–(1) The Corozal Free Zone shall be opened and businesses, offices and other establishments located in the Corozal Free Zone shall be allowed to operate.

Corozal Free Zone.

(2) The Board of Directors of the Corozal Free Zone shall ensure that the temperature of every person entering the Corozal Free Zone is taken and logged.

(3) Every owner or manager of a business, office or establishment operating in the Corozal Free Zone shall abide by guidelines issued by the Ministry responsible for health prior to conducting business in the Corozal Free Zone.

17.–(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, schools that satisfy the guidelines and criteria on the Green Light Standard Safety Checklist and the School Readiness Checklist established by the Ministry responsible for education shall be allowed to open for face to face instruction.

Schools.

(2) Every school unable to satisfy the guidelines and criteria on the Green Light Standard Safety Checklist and the School Readiness Checklist established by the Ministry responsible for education shall remain closed and only operate online.

Operating
remotely.

18.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, every employer of a public or private business that is not an essential business, 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.

Transportation.

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

- (a) every person travelling on public transportation or private transportation shall wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering for the duration of the travel;
- (b) a person who is not wearing a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering, shall not be allowed by the operator or conductor of public transportation or private transportation

to board the public transportation or private transportation; and

- (c) the operator and any conductor of, public transportation or private transportation shall at all times during the travel, wear a face mask or other face (nose and mouth) covering.

(2) The provision of public transportation or private transportation is allowed at 100% of the seating capacity of the public or private transportation.

(3) While social distancing of six feet shall not be observed on public transportation or private transportation, every operator of public transportation or private transportation shall make available hand sanitizer for use by every passenger.

(4) Every person travelling on a public bus is required to purchase a ticket which will entitle the holder to queue up, observing a distance of six feet between persons, for 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 that operator shall oversee the sanitization of the of public transportation by personnel on site at the terminal.

(6) Prior to boarding public transportation at a terminal, every passenger shall wash and sanitize hands at the facilities provided at the terminal, and where passengers are picked up elsewhere than at 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) It shall be a defence to any proceedings under these Regulations for an operator or conductor of public

transportation or private transportation to show that he took all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with his obligation under this regulation.

(8) Without prejudice to the foregoing, all passengers, public transportation providers and private transportation providers shall abide by guidelines issued by the Ministry responsible for health, prior to boarding or disembarking from the public transportation or private transportation utilised.

(9) For the purposes of this regulation, private transportation means transportation provided by tour operators.

(10) Every operator of public transportation who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

(11) In addition to the penalty under sub-regulation (10), every operator of public transportation who is convicted of an offence under this regulation is liable to revocation of that operator's road service permit.

PART III

Entry and exit through the airport, land port or sea port

Entry of
persons
through
airport, land
port or sea
port.

20.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, a person may enter Belize through the airport or any land port or sea port upon presenting—

- (a) proof of immunization;
- (b) a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to arrival in Belize; or
- (c) a negative rapid antigen test taken within 48 hours prior to arrival in Belize.

(2) Where a person desiring to enter Belize through the airport or any land port or sea port cannot meet any entry requirement under sub-regulation (1) that person shall submit to testing by the Ministry responsible for health.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (2), every child under the age of 12 years shall not be subjected to testing for SARS-CoV2 upon entry into Belize through the airport or any land port or sea port,

provided however, that every child between the ages of five and 11 years, inclusive, who is not immunized and who is re-entering Belize after having exited Belize for a period of three nights shall be required to submit to testing by the Ministry responsible for health.

(4) Any Belizean who fails to submit to testing under sub-regulation (2) shall, at the person's own expense, be put into mandatory quarantine at a government designated quarantine facility 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.

(5) Any foreign tourist who fails to submit to testing under sub-regulation (2) shall be denied entry into Belize.

(6) A person denied entry under sub-regulation (5) shall—

- (a) be required to return to his port of origin at his own expense at the earliest occasion; and
- (b) if unable to be immediately returned to his port of origin, at the person's own expense, be put into mandatory quarantine at a government designated quarantine facility 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.

Mandatory
quarantine.

21.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, any person entering Belize who tests positive for COVID-19 shall, at the person's own expense, be put into mandatory quarantine at a government designated quarantine facility 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.

(2) A person who tests positive for COVID-19 may be discharged and declared recovered only by a health professional acting in accordance with the standardized protocols of the Ministry responsible for health.

(3) A person who tests positive for COVID-19 commits an offence if that person—

- (a) fails to go into mandatory quarantine;
- (b) while in mandatory quarantine, breaches any direction of the Quarantine Authority.
- (c) escapes or leaves mandatory quarantine before the period of time directed by the Quarantine Authority.

(4) A person who commits an offence under sub-regulation (3) is liable on summary conviction to—

- (a) mandatory quarantine; and
- (b) a fine of one thousand dollars.

Compliance
with health
and safety
protocols.

22.—(1) Any person, who enters Belize through the airport, a land port or sea port shall comply with all health and safety protocols issued by the government of Belize, the Ministry responsible for health and the Belize Tourism Board, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including but not limited to the following—

- (a) to wear a facemask, when required to do so; and
- (b) to observe social distancing protocols.

(2) A person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and shall be issued a violation ticket in accordance with Part VI.

23. Every person entering Belize who is required to submit to testing under these regulations shall pay the cost, as determined by the Ministry responsible for health, for a PCR test or other test for SARS-CoV2 approved by the Ministry responsible for health, unless that person is exempted from payment of fees for testing.

Fees for testing.

24.—(1) A person who contravenes a provision under this Part where no penalty has been provided for commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months or to both fine and term of imprisonment.

Offence and penalty.

(2) Any person who assaults, obstructs, intimidates, threatens, or resists any designated officer or other person acting under the authority of these Regulations, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of six months or to both fine and term of imprisonment.

(3) Any person, other than a Belizean or Belizean permanent resident, who contravenes a provision under these Regulations, may be expelled from Belize at his own expense at the earliest possible occasion.

25. Notwithstanding regulation 24, the Quarantine Authority may, by civil proceedings, recover against any person the cost for a PCR test or other test for SARS-CoV2 approved by the Ministry responsible for health.

Recovery by civil proceedings.

Exit of persons through airport, land port or sea port.

26.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, a person may exit Belize through the airport or any land port or sea port upon presenting proof of immunization.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), the following persons may exit Belize through the airport or any land port or sea port without presenting proof of immunization—

- (a) children under the age of 12 years;
- (b) persons seeking to exit the country on urgent medical grounds, provided that valid proof of the urgent medical grounds is presented to the Immigration Officer at the point of exit.

Offence and penalty for entering or exiting Belize contrary to this Part.

27.—(1) Every person entering or exiting Belize contrary to this Part commits an offence and is liable to—

- (a) mandatory quarantine at that person's expense; and
- (b) three months imprisonment.

(2) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offence under this regulation is liable, in addition to the imposition of mandatory quarantine, to imprisonment for a period of one year.

(3) A person who is liable to mandatory quarantine under this regulation shall, if convicted, be quarantined—

- (a) for a period of time as directed by the Quarantine Authority; and
- (b) at a place to be determined by the Quarantine Authority.

(4) Where a person arrested and charged but not convicted under this regulation is liable to mandatory quarantine, that person shall be subject to mandatory quarantine under regulation 21.

28.—(1) The following procedures shall be followed on the arrest and charge of a person who enters or exists Belize in contravention of this Part—

Procedure on arrest and charge of persons entering or exiting Belize illegally.

- (a) upon arrest and charge, the person shall immediately be submitted to the Ministry responsible for health for testing, as may be required;
- (b) after testing, the person arrested and charged shall be taken to court to be arraigned; and
- (c) after arraignment, the person shall be quarantined for the period directed by the Quarantine Authority, whether or not that person has been granted bail.

(2) If a person who has been arrested cannot immediately be charged, or if charged, cannot immediately be taken to court after being tested by the Ministry responsible for health, that person shall—

- (a) be isolated in a cell at the police station in the judicial district where the offence was committed; and
- (b) be brought before the court at its earliest sitting.

(3) After the completion of the period of quarantine directed by the Quarantine Authority, a person arraigned shall be—

- (a) released pending trial if that person was granted bail; or

(b) remanded pending trial if that person was not granted bail.

(4) Notwithstanding the pronouncement by the magistrate of the guilt or innocence of a person arrested and charged, that person shall serve the period of mandatory quarantine prior to being committed to prison or released, as the case may be.

(5) Where a person charged under regulation 27 is found guilty of the offence, that person shall serve the term of imprisonment as directed by the magistrate after completing the period of mandatory quarantine directed by the Quarantine Authority.

Travel
insurance.

29.—(1) Every foreign tourist entering Belize through the airport or through any land port or sea port shall be required to purchase travel insurance prior to or upon arrival in Belize.

(2) The required coverage of travel insurance required under sub-regulation (1) shall be as prescribed by the Belize Tourism Board.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1) above, the following category of persons shall be exempt from the requirement of travel insurance under this regulation—

- (a) permanent residents;
- (b) a person holding a temporary status in Belize including the holder of a temporary employment permit, a dependant's permit or a student's permit;
- (c) Qualified Retired Persons;
- (d) foreign nationals with long stay status;
- (e) airline crew and personnel;

- (f) cruise ship passengers and crew;
- (g) visiting foreign nationals whose stay does not exceed one day;
- (h) foreign government officials and diplomats; and
- (i) any other category of persons determined by the Belize Tourism Board.

30.—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, a foreign tourist entering Belize through the airport, or any land port or sea port who tests positive for COVID-19 after being subjected to testing by the Ministry responsible for health may—

Procedure where a foreign tourist tests positive for COVID-19.

- (a) at the discretion of the designated officer, be denied entry into Belize; or
- (b) at the person's own expense, be put into mandatory quarantine at a Government designated quarantine facility 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.

(2) A foreign tourist who tests positive for COVID-19 and placed in mandatory quarantine may be discharged and declared recovered only by a health professional acting in accordance with the standardised protocols of the Ministry responsible for health.

(3) A foreign tourist who tests positive for COVID-19 and placed in mandatory quarantine commits an offence if that person—

- (a) fails to go into mandatory quarantine;
- (b) while in mandatory quarantine, breaches any direction of the Quarantine Authority; or
- (c) escapes or leaves mandatory quarantine before the period of time directed by the Quarantine Authority.

(4) A person who commits an offence under sub-regulation (3) is liable on summary conviction to—

- (a) mandatory quarantine; and
- (b) a fine of one thousand dollars.

Requirement to complete health declaration form.

31. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, every foreign tourist shall, upon arrival at the airport or any land port or sea port, complete a health declaration form provided by a designated officer.

PART IV

Testing institutions and testing kits

Approved testing institutions.

32.—(1) Every owner or operator of a medical institution, who desires to conduct testing for the purposes of these Regulations, shall apply to the Ministry responsible for health for approval to conduct testing.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations, only a negative PCR test or a negative antigen rapid test from any of the approved medical institutions specified in Schedule III shall be accepted.

(3) Every person who contravenes sub-regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars.

33.-(1) No person shall import a home test kit that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 or any equipment or supplies in relation to a home test kit that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 without a permit issued by the Ministry responsible for health.

Restriction on importation of home test kits, equipment, etc.

(2) Every person who desires to import a home test kit that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 or any equipment or supplies in relation to a home test kit that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 shall—

- (a) apply in writing to the Ministry responsible for health for approval to import that home test kit, equipment or supplies; and
- (b) provide proof to the Ministry responsible for health that the home test kit, equipment or supplies are approved by the—
 - (i) Food and Drug Administration;
 - (ii) European Medicines Agency; or
 - (iii) World Health Organization.

(3) Where the Ministry responsible for health is satisfied on application that a home test kit, equipment or supplies desired to be imported under sub-regulation (2) is approved by any one of the organizations in paragraph (b), it may issue a permit to import the home test kit, equipment or supplies.

(4) A permit issued under sub-regulation (3) may attach conditions to that permit.

(5) On importation of a home test kit, equipment or supplies that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 or any equipment or supplies in relation to a home test kit under this regulation, the importer shall provide to a Customs

Officer or designated officer of the Ministry responsible for health, a valid permit to import issued by the Ministry responsible for health.

(5) Where an importer fails to produce a valid permit for the importation of a home test kit, equipment or supplies that detects the presence or absence of SARS-COV2 or any equipment or supplies in relation to a home test kit, a Customs Officer, officer of the security forces or designated officer of the Ministry responsible for health shall confiscate the home test kit, equipment or supplies and proceed to charge the importer with an offence under this regulation.

(6) A person who contravenes any provision of this regulation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and any home test kits, equipment or supplies confiscated under sub-regulation (5) shall be forfeited.

Requirement to validate test kits.

34. Every person who imports a home test kit shall, within 7 days of importation, submit that home test kit to the Central Medical Laboratory of the Ministry responsible for health for validation.

PART V

Offences and penalties

Offences in relation to mandatory quarantine.

35.—(1) A person commits an offence if that person—

- (a) contravenes regulation 21;
- (b) while in mandatory quarantine, breaches any direction of the Quarantine Authority; or
- (c) escapes or leaves mandatory quarantine before the period of time directed by the Quarantine Authority.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this regulation is liable on summary conviction to—

- (a) mandatory quarantine; and
- (b) one thousand dollars.

(3) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offence under this regulation is liable, in addition to the imposition of mandatory quarantine, to imprisonment for a period of one year.

36. Every person that creates, issues or has in his possession a false COVID-19 immunization card commits an offence.

Offence of creating or being in possession of fake immunization card.

37.—(1) Every employer of a business, office or establishment who contravenes regulations 8, 12, 13, 15 or 18 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars.

Penalty for employers and employees.

(2) Every employer of a business, office or establishment who is convicted of a second or subsequent offence is liable on summary conviction to—

- (a) a fine of five thousand dollars; and
- (b) closure of that business, office or establishment for a period of seven days.

(3) Every employee of a business, office or establishment who contravenes regulations 4 or 8 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred dollars.

38.—(1) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations or incites or attempts to incite any other

General offence and penalty.

person to contravene any of these Regulations commits an offence.

(2) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations for which no penalty is specifically provided is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for two years.

(3) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offence under these Regulations for which no penalty is specifically provided is liable to imprisonment for a period of two years.

PART VI

Violation Tickets

Issue of
violation ticket.

39.—(1) A violation ticket may be issued by a Police Officer or an officer of the Enforcement Unit to any person alleged or suspected of having committed any of the offences under regulations 4, 5, 10, 14, 19 and 22.

(2) Any person who refuses to receive a violation ticket, or refuses to give his name and address, or gives a false name or address commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars.

Form of
violation ticket.
Schedule IV.

40.—(1) A violation ticket that is issued shall be—

- (a) in the form prescribed in Schedule IV; and
- (b) prepared in duplicate.

(2) The Belize Police Department shall be responsible for printing, supplying and distributing all violation tickets.

Fine to be paid.

41. Every person who is issued a violation ticket shall pay a fine of five hundred dollars, which amount shall be clearly stated on the face of the violation ticket.

42.-(1)Every person who is issued a violation ticket shall pay the fine stated on the violation ticket within fifteen calendar days of the date of issue of the violation ticket.

Time for payment of fine.

(2) The fine stated on the violation ticket shall be increased at the rate of ten dollars for every day the fine remains unpaid if the violator fails to pay the fine within the time prescribed under sub-regulation (1).

(3) If the fine stated on the violation ticket remains unpaid for a period of thirty calendar days from the date of issue of the violation ticket, the ticket shall automatically operate as a summons and the person to whom the ticket was issued shall on the day specified in the summons for him to appear in court, which day shall be not less than seven calendar days and not more than fourteen calendar days from the expiry of the thirty day period, be required to appear at the summary jurisdiction court in the judicial district, on the date and time specified on the face of the violation ticket.

(4) Immediately after the expiration of thirty calendar days after the fine remains unpaid but in any case no later than the day specified for the person to appear in court, the summons shall be laid in court by the bailiff or some other officer designated by the Belize Police Department for that purpose and the provisions of Part IV of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act shall apply in respect of the complaint contained therein as if the information and complaint were made under that Act.

CAP. 99.

(5) A person convicted of an offence under this Part is liable to a fine of one thousand dollars.

43.-(1)The provisions of sections 25 and 27 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act shall not affect the validity of a summons issued under this Part, and any violation ticket issued shall, for the purpose of proving service of summons on the defendant be deemed good and sufficient service.

Further application of certain provisions of Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act. CAP. 99.

(2) The provisions of section 26 and 28 of the Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to a summons issued under this Part.

Places for
payment of
fine.

44.—(1) The fine stated on a violation ticket may be paid at the Treasury, District Sub-Treasury, or at any Magistrate's Court.

(2) A person paying the fine shall submit the violation ticket to the officer collecting the fine.

(3) All Treasuries, District Sub-Treasuries and Magistrates Court shall—

- (a) ensure the correct amount of the fine is paid by the violator, including any increased amounts which may have accrued under regulation 42;
- (b) issue a receipt for the amount collected;
- (c) keep a record of the—
 - (i) amount collected;
 - (ii) name and address of the person paying the fine;
 - (iii) number and date of the violation ticket; and
 - (iv) date of payment; and
- (d) at the end of every month, forward a copy of the record under paragraph (c) to the Commissioner of Police together with the violation tickets submitted.

Use of fines
paid.

45. All fines and penalties collected by virtue of this Part shall be credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

PART VII*Miscellaneous*

46.—(1) There shall be established a COVID-19 Enforcement Unit which shall be responsible to issue violation tickets in accordance with Part VI.

**COVID-19
Enforcement
Unit.**

(2) The COVID-19 Enforcement Unit shall comprise of such number of officers appointed by the Minister, by Notice published in the *Gazette*.

47.—(1) The Public Health (Reform) (Prevention Of The Spread Of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19) Regulations, 2022 are repealed.

**Repeal and
savings. S.I. 36
of 2022.**

(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.

48. These Regulations shall come into force on the 5th day of March, 2022.

Commencement.

SCHEDULE I
[regulation 2]

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

1. Ministry of National Security
2. Department of Border Management and Immigration Services
3. Customs and Excise Department
4. medical and auxiliary services
 - (a) including veterinary services;
 - (b) services by private medical institutions including private clinics; and
 - (c) ambulance services,
5. private security services
6. public utility workers and auxiliary staff responding to emergencies
7. social workers authorized to respond to emergencies
8. sanitation workers and auxiliary staff
9. productive sector industries, personnel and auxiliary workers (potable water production, agricultural workers)
10. Belize Port Authority
11. The National Fire Service
12. Belize Electricity Limited
13. Belize Water Services Limited
14. Belize Telemedia Limited
15. Speednet Communications Limited (Smart)
16. Department of Civil Aviation
17. BPO

SCHEDULE II

[regulation 2]

VACCINE	DOSES
Pfizer-BionTech	2
AstraZeneca SK Bio	2
AstraZeneca-SII Covishield	2
AstraZeneca Vaxzevria	2
Medigen (Taiwan)	2
Moderna	2
Sinopharm	2
Johnson & Johnson / Janssen Cilag	1
Sinovac (Coronavac)	2

SCHEDULE III

*[regulation 32]***APPROVED TESTING INSTITUTIONS**

Archangel Medical Center
Belize Diagnostic Center
Belize Healthcare Partners
Belize Medical Associates
Belize Pro Lab
Belize Specialists Hospital, Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Center
Belmopan Medical Centre
Buttonwood Bay Medical Centre
Caring Hands Clinic
Dr. D's Clinic
Hummingbird Health Clinic
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza
San Carlos Medical Center
Southern Clinical Laboratory
St. Luke Hospital

SCHEDULE IV
[regulation 40]

FORM OF VIOLATION TICKET

No. _____ Date of Issue _____

AMOUNT OF FINE: FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)

NAME OF PERSON TO WHOM ISSUED: _____

IDENTIFICATION NO.: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

SEX: _____

HEIGHT: _____

ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: _____

ADDRESS OF PERSON TO WHOM ISSUED: _____

DATE AND TIME OF THE OFFENCE: _____

TYPE OF OFFENCE: _____

PLACE WHERE OFFENCE COMMITTED: _____

DUE DATE FOR PAYMENT: _____

NAME OF OFFICER (IN BLOCK LETTERS) ISSUING THE TICKET:

DESIGNATION AND ADDRESS OF THE OFFICER ISSUING THE
TICKET: _____

BADGE NUMBER OF THE OFFICER ISSUING THE TICKET:

If fine is not paid within thirty days of the date of issue of this violation ticket, you are hereby summoned to appear in the _____
 _____ (Name of Court)
 Court on the _____ at _____ to answer to the
 _____ (date of appearance) _____ (time of appearance)
 following charges:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
 (specify charges which led to issuance of ticket)

If you fail to appear as indicated above, the trial may proceed in your absence or a warrant may be issued for your arrest.

SPECIMEN CHARGE

_____ committed the offence of
 _____ (Name of Defendant)
 _____ (specify the offence)
 regulation _____ of the Public Health (Reform) (Prevention Of
 The Spread
 Of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19), Regulations for that the said
 _____ on the _____
 _____ (name of defendant) _____ (date of
 commission of offence)
 in the _____ Judicial District

 (give particulars of offence)

N.B: Officers issuing tickets should endeavour to follow the specimen charge provided above when they are specifying the charges leading to the issuance of the ticket.

NOTES

1. The violation ticket has been issued in respect of an offence under the Public Health (Reform) (Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19) Regulations, 2022.
2. You may pay the fine stated on the ticket at any Treasury, District Sub-Treasury or at a Magistrate's Court, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of issue of the ticket, by delivering ticket issued.
3. If the fine is not paid within fifteen (15) calendar days, the fine shall be increased by \$10.00 for every day the fine remains unpaid.
4. If the fine stated in the violation ticket remains unpaid for a period of thirty calendar days this violation ticket shall automatically operate as a summons to appear before the Court stated on the face to the ticket. If you fail to appear in court as required, a warrant may be issued for your arrest, or the trial may be held in your absence. In the event of a conviction, you shall be fined up to one thousand dollars.

MADE by the Minister responsible for public health this 4th day of March, 2022.



(HON. KEVIN BERNARD)
Minister of Health and Wellness
(Minister responsible for public health)