

**BELIZE:**

**QUARANTINE (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID-19) REGULATIONS, 2020**

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**BELIZE:****STATUTORY INSTRUMENT****No. 175 of 2020**  

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*REGULATIONS made by the Minister in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 4 of the Quarantine Act, Chapter 41 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2011, and all other powers thereunto it enabling.*

*(Gazetted 18th December, 2020).*

*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 4 of the Quarantine Act, the following Regulations is made.*

**PART I***Preliminary*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

**QUARANTINE (PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD  
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE) (COVID 19)  
REGULATIONS, 2020.**

2. For the purposes of these Regulations—

Interpretation.

“Act” means the Quarantine Act;

“airport” means the Phillip Goldson International Airport;

“App” means a computing application developed in conjunction with the Ministry responsible for health and the Ministry responsible for tourism as part of the health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19 to enable the registration of persons in Belize and to provide information to these persons on the conditions under which they are permitted entry into Belize;

“approved hotel or tourist accommodation” means a hotel or tourist accommodation that certified as Gold Standard;

“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;

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

“foreign home owner” means a foreigner who owns real property home in Belize

“foreign tourist” means a foreigner travelling to Belize for vacation only;

“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; CAP. 285.

“liquor” has the meaning assigned under section 2 of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act; CAP. 150.

“minor” means a person under the age of sixteen years;

“open air restaurant” “outdoor restaurant” or “al fresco dining restaurant” means a restaurant that is not enclosed within a building or other facility and which is out in the open or is sufficiently out in the open to have air naturally circulating within;

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

“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.

“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.

**Application.**

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

## **PART II**

### *Protocols*

**Curfew.**

**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 five o'clock a.m. of the following morning.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), every minor shall be and remain within the confines of a private property during the hours of six o'clock p.m. until five o'clock a.m. of the following morning.

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

(4) Sub-regulations (1) and (3) shall not apply to any members, who are on duty, of the security forces, Customs and Excise Department, Department of Immigration Services only, public utilities, any frontline health care provider on duty working for the Ministry responsible for health (including hospitals which are statutory bodies), or to any person who possesses a pass badge issued by the Minister responsible for home affairs or a person authorised by him.

(5) A person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

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

**Wearing of face masks.**

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) swimming; or
- (d) driving alone or driving with members of the same household in a motor vehicle other than a motor cycle, golf cart or any similar motor vehicle.

(3) No owner or manager of a business, office or establishment 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 a business, office or establishment to show that he took all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with sub-regulation (3).

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-regulation (1), the owner or manager of a business, office or establishment may prescribe the types of face masks or other face (nose and mouth) coverings which are permissible for entry to that business, office or establishment.

(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) is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

Social distancing, etc.

**6.**—(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 is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

Restriction of gatherings for social purposes.

**7.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, no person shall gather for social purposes in numbers of more than ten persons at a time who are not of the same household, anywhere in Belize, whether in any public or private place.

(2) 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 ten persons at any sitting of the National Assembly.

(3) Every person commits an offence if that person hosts or attends a gathering of more than ten persons who are not from the same household.

(4) A person who commits an offence under sub-regulation (3) is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars.

**8.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, no person shall host or attend—

Restriction on social activities.

- (a) a private gathering which includes any person from outside of the immediate household;
- (b) a recreational or competitive sporting event;
- (c) a wedding which hosts more than ten persons other than the bride, bridegroom, official witnesses and the marriage officer;
- (d) a banquet, ball or reception;
- (e) any social event;
- (f) a funeral, except ten members of the immediate family and at least one officiant and essential mortuary staff;
- (g) a meeting of a fraternal society, private or social club or civic association or organization; or
- (h) a church service or other service of worship which hosts more than ten persons other than the person officiating the service and two auxiliary personnel.

(2) A person who commits an offence under this regulation is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars.

Social distancing protocols and other requirements for businesses and offices.

**9.**—(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—

- (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, which shall not be more than fifty *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 department store, hardware store, grocery store, dry goods store, shop and market shall employ a Peace Officer for every floor of that department store, hardware store, grocery store, dry goods store, shop and market if the square footage of that department store, hardware store, grocery store, dry goods store, shop and market 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 department store, hardware store, grocery store, dry goods store, and shop;
  - (ii) the proprietor of the land where the market is situated;
  - (iii) every person accessing services of the department store, hardware store, grocery store, dry goods store, shop and market;
- (c) be paid an honorarium by the employer for the performance of his functions as a Peace Officer under these Regulations.

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

- (a) maintain, at any given time, a number of employees that is proportionate to the square footage of the BPO company or business;

- (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 fifty *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) 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.

**10.**–(1) The following recreational non-contact sports shall be allowed–

Non-contact sports.

- (a) tennis;
- (b) golf;
- (c) table tennis; and
- (d) any other similar non-contact sport.

(2) Notwithstanding regulation 5 and 6, persons participating in any of the sporting activities under sub-regulation (1) 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.

(3) A person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

**11.**–(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.

- (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 who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

Closure of bars, rum shops, casinos, etc.

**12.** For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, the following shall be closed—

(a) bars, rum shops, discotheques, and night clubs;

(b) casinos and gaming establishments; and

(c) gymnasiums.

Restriction on spas, beauty salons and barber shops.

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

(a) services offered shall be by appointment only; and

(b) only two customers, the customer being attended to and the customer who is waiting, shall be allowed to be in a spa, beauty salon or barber shop at any one time.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1)—

(a) if the square footage of a spa, beauty salon or barber shop is such that social distancing protocols cannot be observed between both customers, only one customer shall be allowed in the spa, beauty salon or barber shop at any one time; or

- (b) if the square footage of a spa, beauty salon or barber shop is such that social distancing protocols can be observed, that spa, beauty salon or barber shop may determine the number of customers permitted in the spa, beauty salon or barber shop, provided that the determined number is proportionate to the square footage of the spa, beauty salon or barber shop and the social distancing protocols to be observed.

14. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19 only restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments holding a restaurant licence and street food vendors shall be allowed to operate in accordance with the following—

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

- (a) restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments holding a restaurant licence shall offer only the service of take out, delivery, or drive thru,

provided that a restaurant that is an open air restaurant, outdoor restaurant, or an al fresco dining restaurant may offer dining in services by reservation only, for no more than fifty *per centum* of its seating capacity;

- (b) street food vendors shall offer only the service of take-out or delivery from a private property.

15. For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, schools shall remain closed but may operate online.

Closure of schools.

16. 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

Employers to implement a shift system.

that is not an essential business shall implement a shift system for the employees of that business.

Employers  
to allow  
operating  
remotely.

**17.**—(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.

**18.**—(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 limited to fifty per centum 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.

Restriction on the sale of liquor. CAP. 150.

**19.** Notwithstanding anything contained in the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act or any licence issued under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, no person shall sell liquor during the hours of six o'clock p.m. to five o'clock a.m. of the following morning.

Restriction on cross district movement.

**20.**—(1) No person shall enter or exit Corozal District or Orange Walk District.

(2) No person within Corozal District or Orange Walk District shall move—

(a) across the boundaries of the Corozal District or Orange Walk District; or

(b) across the boundaries of any town, village or community of the Corozal District or Orange Walk District.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-regulations (1) and (2), a person may enter or exit Corozal District or Orange Walk District or move across the boundaries of any village or community

of the Corozal District or Orange Walk District if that person is moving for the purpose of—

- (a) going to and from work;
- (b) conducting business operations;
- (c) food distribution;
- (d) a medical emergency;
- (e) tourism by foreign tourists on tours; or
- (f) purchasing essential supplies, such as food, medication or water.

### PART III

#### *Entry through the airport*

**21.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, every foreign tourist shall, prior to arrival at the airport—

**Requirements  
for foreign  
tourist prior to  
arrival.**

- (a) reserve or book his stay at an approved hotel or tourist accommodation; and
- (b) make arrangements with the hotel or tourist accommodation at which he is staying to be transported to that hotel or tourist accommodation by any means of transportation provided by that hotel or tourist accommodation or by any other means of transportation authorised by the Belize Tourism Board.

(2) A foreign tourist shall produce to a designated officer, upon being requested to do so, documentation to show to the satisfaction of the designated officer that the foreign tourist

has made a reservation or booking at an approved hotel or tourist accommodation.

(3) A foreign tourist who is unable to produce documentation to the satisfaction of a designated officer, showing his booking or reservation at an approved hotel or tourist accommodation, upon being requested to do so, may be denied entry into Belize and thereupon be required to return to his port of origin at his own expense at the earliest possible occasion.

Requirement  
to download  
app.

**22.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, every person shall, prior to arrival or upon arrival at the airport—

(a) download the app on an electronic device; and

(b) input the information required by the app.

(2) Every person shall—

(a) ensure that all information input into the app is true and accurate; and

(b) comply with all terms and conditions for use of the app.

(3) Every foreign tourist shall—

(a) ensure that the app remains downloaded on his mobile device for the duration of his stay in Belize; and

(b) keep his mobile device with him at all times.

Testing  
requirements.

**23.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, every person who enters Belize through the airport shall submit to

testing by the Ministry responsible for health if that person does not provide—

- (a) a PCR test taken within 96 hours prior to arrival in Belize; or
- (b) any other test for SARS-CoV2 approved by the Ministry responsible for health, taken within 48 hours prior to arrival in Belize.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), every person with business concerns in Belize shall, upon arrival in Belize, provide a PCR test taken within 96 hours prior to arrival in Belize, or any other test for SARS-CoV2 approved by the Ministry responsible for health, taken with 48 hours prior to arrival in Belize.

(3) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, notwithstanding that a person may provide a PCR test or other test for SARS-CoV2 approved by the Ministry responsible for health taken within 96 hours or 48 hours, as the case may be, prior to arrival in Belize, that person may be subjected to random testing by the Ministry responsible for health.

(4) Any person who is not a Belizean who fails to comply with sub-regulations (1), (2) or (3) shall be denied entry into Belize.

(5) A person denied entry under sub-regulation (4) 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.

**Quarantine.**

**24.**—(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 after being administered a PCR test, rapid test or other test for SARS-CoV2, 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.

**25.**—(1) Any person, who enters Belize through the airport, 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—

Compliance with health and safety protocols.

(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 is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five hundred dollars.

**26.** Every person entering Belize 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.

Fees for testing.

**27.**—(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 \$5000.00 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 \$5000.00 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.

Recovery  
by civil  
proceedings.

**28.** Notwithstanding regulation 27, 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.

#### PART IV

##### *Entry through land and sea ports*

Closure of  
land and sea  
ports

**29.**—(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, every land and sea port of entry into and exit out of Belize shall be closed.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), land and sea ports of entry into and exit out of Belize shall not be closed to—

- (a) cargo shipments;
- (b) emergency medical travel approved by the Director of Health Services in consultation with the Minister; or
- (c) persons allowed to return under regulation 30 and granted approval in accordance with regulation 31.

Entry of  
persons  
returning to  
Belize at any  
land or sea  
port.

**30.**—(1) A person returning to Belize at any land or sea port shall be allowed entry at that port if that person—

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

- (c) is a returning Belizean student or Permanent Resident student enrolled at, or a graduand of, an educational institution abroad;
- (d) is a returning Belizean national or Permanent Resident;
- (e) is a resident Belizean diplomat;
- (f) is a foreign diplomat resident in, and accredited to, Belize;
- (g) is the holder of a valid work permit;
- (h) is a consultant or specialist technician required to be in Belize to assist in an emergency or on a needs basis;
- (i) is a business person with investments in Belize.

(2) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of COVID-19, a person allowed entry pursuant to sub-regulation (1) shall be put into immediate mandatory quarantine or self-quarantine at the discretion of the Quarantine Authority.

**31.** A person qualified under regulation 30 who desires to travel to Belize by land or sea shall apply to the Ministry responsible for foreign affairs or to the nearest consulate or embassy for permission to enter prior to arriving at every land and sea port of entry in Belize.

Permission to enter Belize.

**32.**—(1) Every person entering or exiting Belize contrary to regulation 29 commits an offence is liable to—

Offence and penalty for entering or exiting Belize contrary to regulation 29.

- (a) mandatory quarantine; 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 34.

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

33.—(1) The following procedures shall be followed on the arrest and charge of a person who enters or exists Belize in contravention of regulation 30—

- (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 32 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.

## PART V

### *Miscellaneous*

**34.**—(1) A person who tests positive for COVID-19 after being administered a PCR test, rapid test or other test for SARS-CoV2 or who develops flu-like symptoms and who

**Mandatory  
quarantine.**

reasonably suspects he is infected with SARS-CoV2 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 responsible 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.

(2) Where a person kept under quarantine at a quarantine facility 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.

(3) 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.

Offences in relation to mandatory quarantine.

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

- (a) contravenes regulation 34;
- (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.**–(1) Every employer of a business, office or establishment who contravenes regulations 9, 13, 14, 16, 17 or 19 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 5 or 9 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of two hundred dollars.

**37.**–(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.

General offence and penalty.

(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.

**38.** The Quarantine (Prevention Of The Spread Of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020 is 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.

**39.**—(1) These regulations shall come into force on the 20th day of December, 2020.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), regulation 18(2) shall come into force on a day appointed by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.

**MADE** by the Minister responsible for quarantine this 18th day of December, 2020.



**HON. MICHEL CHEBAT**  
*Minister of Health and Wellness*  
(Minister responsible for quarantine)