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Summary of Statutory Instrument No. 78 of 2020 Effective Monday, June 1st, 2020

Belmopan. June 02, 2020.

1. IS CURFEW STILL IN EFFECT?

Yes, the curfew is still imposed and in effect for the entire country for **BOTH** adults and minors, 16 years and under from

- Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 p.m. to 4:59 a.m.
- Friday to Saturday from 9:00 p.m. to 4:59 a.m.

However, minors, 16 years and under, **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian during

- The **mornings** from
 - Sunday to Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.
- The **evenings** from
 - Sunday to Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - Friday to Saturday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

No person shall be on the streets or in any public place nor on any public road during curfew.

2. WHO CAN MOVE DURING CURFEW?

- Members of the security forces, Customs and Excise Department, Department of Immigration Services who are on duty
- Frontline health care providers on duty working for the Ministry of Health (including hospitals which are statutory bodies)

- Essential workers who possess a pass badge issued by the Minister of National Security

3. MOVEMENT OUTSIDE CURFEW HOURS (5:00 A.M. TO 7:59 P.M.) – WHO CAN MOVE AND FOR WHAT PURPOSES?

- Purchasing essential needs
- Attending for medical or veterinary attention
- Emergencies
- An essential worker or employee of an approved business going to or from work
- An essential worker or employee of an approved business, acting within the scope of his duties (including security guards, agricultural or factory workers, delivery services or other similar operations)
- A person seeking or obtaining services of an approved business or office
- A home health care provider of services to sick, disabled, or elderly persons or to children, going to and from work
- A person visiting family or engaging in any other activity allowed under these regulations

Persons MUST NOT loiter, wander, assemble or otherwise move in any public place and on any public road during non-curfew hours.

4. EXERCISE IS ALLOWED FROM 5:00 a.m to 7:59 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and 5:00 a.m. to 8:59 p.m. from Friday to Saturday.

- **ONLY** exercising by jogging, running, walking, or cycling is allowed
- Social distancing of a minimum of six feet distance must be maintained
- In the case of cycling, no person can ride two abreast

There is **NO** requirement for the use of a face mask or face covering while exercising.

5. WHAT ARE THE NEW RULES AS IT RELATES TO SPORTS, GYMS and PARKS?

- **Sports**
 - **ONLY** tennis, track and field (at the Marion Jones Complex) and volleyball practice (by the Volleyball Association) are allowed

- Persons **WHILE** participating in a sporting activity are exempt from practising social distancing and from wearing a face mask or face covering
- **Gyms**
 - **ONLY** during the hours from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday to Saturday
 - All gyms **MUST** follow the guidelines issued by the National Sports Council
- **Parks**

All parks, playgrounds, and other recreational grounds are **CLOSED**

6. CAN AN OFFICER OF THE SECURITY SERVICES STOP AND QUESTION ANY PERSON?

Yes, persons can be stopped at any given time during and outside the curfew and be asked to explain their reason for moving.

7. WHO IS AN APPROVED BUSINESS AND WHEN CAN THEY OPERATE?

The following can operate as may be determined by their management.

From **Sunday to Thursday between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and from Friday and Saturday from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

- Fuel stations and depots, LPG suppliers, LPG depots and distributors;
- Agro-processors, food manufacturers, and factories and manufacturers of carbonated and other beverages including spirits (but excluding potable water);
- Agricultural and aquaculture farms;
- Fishing for livelihood and sustenance including sport fishing and leisure fishing;
- Waste disposal and sanitation companies and auxiliary personnel;
- Productive sector industries, personnel and auxiliary workers (potable water production; agricultural workers);
- Markets (agricultural produce, fish and meat);
- Public transportation providers;
- Construction and construction sites (private and commercial);
- Local manufacturers;

- Bakeries and tortilla factories;
- Dive shops and other similar businesses;
- Street food vendors;
- Gymnasiums

From **Sunday to Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and from Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

- Pharmacies;
- Convenience stores, food stores, supermarkets, meat shops, butchers, distributors of beverages (including carbonated beverages, spirits, and potable water);
- Hotels, villas, and other rental accommodations;
 - **But** shall not make or take any international bookings
- Storefront outlets for essential businesses (public utilities companies);
- Financial institutions including commercial banks, credit unions, insurance companies, money lending institutions, money transfer institutions, pawn shops;
- Mechanic shops, garages and auto parts stores;
- Service of take-out, delivery or drive thru' facility, at restaurants, saloons, diners and other similar establishments;
- Restaurants;
 - Dining must be made by reservation only
 - **MUST** observe a minimum distance of six feet between tables
 - A maximum of 10 guests of the same party can be seated together
- Establishments which hold a publican's special license **operating** as a restaurant and not as a bar (or similar business);
 - **MUST** observe a minimum distance of six feet between tables
 - A maximum of 10 guests of the same party can be seated together
- International delivery services by international delivery service providers (such as DHL, Federal Express (FedEx) Amerijet, etc.);
- Domestic delivery services of goods by delivery service providers (such as BPMS, Speedit etc.);

- Domestic delivery services of goods, or pick-up of goods or meals by social service organizations or volunteer groups operating under the auspices of the Ministry responsible for Human Development;
- Wholesalers of goods and services directly related to an approved business or office;
- Businesses that provide ancillary services or goods to the government, statutory bodies or other approved businesses;
- The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre (and any research undertaken or being done);
- Wildlife and environmental organizations;
- Hardware stores;
- Domestic workers including gardeners, yardmen, and other domestic services;
- Professional services;
- Beauty salons for hair and nail services only, and barber shops;
 - by appointment **only**
 - **Only 2** customers can be allowed to be in a beauty salon or barber shop at any given time (the customer being attended to and the customer who is waiting)
 - Where the square footage is such that social distancing protocols cannot be observed between both customers, there must **only be one** customer at a time
- Car washing and detailing services;
- Laundromat services of pick-up and drop-off **only**;
- Casinos and Gaming establishments;
 - However, **NO** drinking or smoking shall be allowed
 - **MUST** observe a minimum of six feet between persons
 - **ALL** persons must wear a face mask or mouth covering
- All other businesses, establishments, shops, offices, organizations and other similar entities, and services not specifically mentioned under this regulation.

All offices and all government offices and statutory bodies not listed in Schedule I can operate from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8. BUSINESSES THAT CAN OPERATE ON A 24-HOUR, 7-DAY A WEEK BASIS:

- Food mills
- Sugar, citrus, and other approved food production factories
- Oil production and drilling for oil exploration
- Port operations and services connected to the loading and unloading of ships, aircrafts, and delivery to and from ports
- Public utilities and independent energy producers which provide energy to public utilities

9. ARE SCHOOLS TO REMAIN CLOSED?

Yes, schools shall remain closed under this regulation.

10. THE FOLLOWING ESTABLISHMENTS MUST REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

- Spas **including** massage parlours and waxing parlours
- Sporting complexes **EXCEPT** the Marion Jones Sports Complex
- Discos, bars, rum shops, and nightclubs
- Day care centres, childcare centres, nurseries and other similar establishments or businesses

11. WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES?

- Every person **MUST** maintain a distance of at least **six feet** from another person.
- Every person **MUST** wear a face mask or mouth covering in a public place, public space, or public office or building.
- Every employee of an approved business or office who has constant interaction with the public **MUST** wear a face mask or mouth covering.

12. EVERY BUSINESS AND OFFICE MUST ABIDE BY THE SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS AND MUST –

- Ensure that all customers and staff maintain a physical distance of at least six feet in or outside their business.

- Determine the number of persons that can enter the establishment at any one time, depending on the square footage of the establishment and the social distancing protocols.
- Place distance markers of six feet apart, indicating where each customer must stand while
 - In a line at a check out point; and
 - **OUTSIDE** while waiting to enter the establishment.

13. **WHAT ARE SOME ADDITIONAL MEASURES IN PLACE FOR BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) COMPANIES?**

- Every BPO company or business must maintain, at any given time, a number of employees that is proportionate to the square footage of the establishment.
- Every BPO must install or appoint a special internal auditor for COVID-19 who must submit a written weekly report to the Ministry of Health detailing the following:
 - the number of employees and the number of employees who presented themselves to work during the reported week
 - the number of floors and supervisors being utilized
 - the number of employees who call in sick and who are working on a rotational basis
 - the protocols being implemented and observed by the BPO
 - any other information required by the Ministry responsible for health
- The Ministry responsible for health can carry out spot checks and inspections to ensure compliance

A BPO found in non-compliance with the provisions is liable to immediate closure by Notice served on the BPO under the hand of the Director of Health Services.

14. **CAN I WORK FROM HOME?**

Yes, if your employer allows you to operate from home **AND** your duties can be discharged from your home.

- Employees working from home should be available for work during that employee's normal working hours.

- Employees are to report to the employer as required or instructed.

15. **WHERE AN EMPLOYEE'S ASSIGNED TASKS CAN ONLY BE DISCHARGED AT HIS PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT**

- That employee must report to work as instructed by the employer as permitted by the regulations.
- The employer must implement social distancing protocols under this regulation in addition to safety measured as advised by the Ministry of Health.

16. **THE USE OF PUBLIC POOLS, BEACHES, AND RIVERS**

All public pools, beaches and rivers are open to the public for the specific purpose of **swimming** under the following conditions -

- **MUST** observe social distancing of six feet, **except** parents or guardians and their children and to persons of the same party
- Maximum 40 persons may gather together
- Where a person has exited a public pool, sea, or river, he/she **must wear a mask**
- The use of a boat or other vessel is **LIMITED** to seating capacity and every passenger not engaged in swimming must wear a mask

17. **CHURCHES OR PLACES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP**

In any facility or public place can operate between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; **however,**

- A congregation **MUST** consist of a **maximum of 40 persons** (not including the officiating person and a maximum of 2 auxiliary personnel, if any)
- Every person **MUST wear a face mask** or other mouth covering for the entire duration of the service
- **No** children, below the age of 12, can participate in any service

18. **WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL GATHERINGS?**

A person may not host nor attend -

- A private party which includes persons living outside your house
- A recreational or sporting event
- A wedding which has more than **40** persons (**including** the bride, groom, official witnesses, and the marriage officer)
- A banquet or reception
- Any social event
- A funeral which has more than **40** persons (**including the** officiant and mortuary staff)
- A meeting of fraternal society, private or social club, or organization

19. **WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION?**

- Every person traveling on public transportation **MUST** wear a face mask for the duration of the journey.
- Persons **WILL NOT** be allowed to board any form of public transportation if they are not wearing a face mask or mouth covering.
- Public transportation is limited to seating capacity and social distancing of six feet shall not be observed.
- The transport operator shall have hand sanitizer for use of every passenger.
- Passengers must purchase a ticket before boarding the bus and **MUST** observe the six feet social distancing for an orderly boarding of the bus.
- The transport operator shall oversee the sanitization of the means of public transportation on-site at the terminal.
- Before boarding, every passenger must wash or sanitize his hands using the conveniences provided at the terminal. If you board the bus at a place other than the terminal, then you must sanitize your hands using the hand sanitizer provided by the bus operator.
- Everyone must follow the Ministry of Health guidelines.

20. **IS THERE A RESTRICTION ON TRAVEL?**

Yes, all ports of entry are and will remain closed for the purpose of travelling except for:

- Cargo flights, cargo shipments and commercial courier flights
- Emergency medical flights

- Emergency flights approved by the Minister of National Security

21. PORTS OF ENTRY AND EXIT

- All ports of entry into and out of Belize remain **CLOSED**. Therefore, anyone found entering or exiting Belize illegally is committing an offence and liable to
 - An imposition of a **mandatory** quarantine **AND** three (3) months imprisonment for the first offence.
 - An imposition of a **mandatory** quarantine **AND** one-year imprisonment for a second or subsequent offence.

22. WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM ARRESTED AND CHARGED FOR ENTERING OR EXITING BELIZE ILLEGALLY?

- You will be immediately tested for COVID-19 and then taken to court to be arraigned.
- If you cannot be immediately taken to court, you will be isolated in a cell at the nearest police station pending your arraignment.
- After your arraignment, whether you have been granted bail or not, you will be taken to a quarantine facility for a time determined by the Quarantine Authority.
- Once you finish the quarantine period you will:
 - Be released if granted bail or remanded to prison pending your trial, or
 - If you are charged and found guilty of the offence, you will serve the time of imprisonment.

23. I AM BELIZEAN OR A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF BELIZE, CAN I RETURN TO BELIZE FROM ABROAD?

If you are **Belizean or a permanent resident of Belize**, you will be allowed to enter Belize from abroad if you are

- A recipient of urgent medical care abroad (with proof)
- Required to be in Belize to assist in an urgent medical situation
- A returning student from being enrolled at or a graduate of an educational institution abroad
- A returning Belizean national or permanent resident

- A resident Belizean diplomat

A Belizean allowed entry shall be put into immediate **mandatory** quarantine or **self-isolation** at the discretion of the Quarantine Authority.

Please **DO NOT** just show up at the border.

24. **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO ENTER BELIZE?**

- If you qualify to enter as per the above, please apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or your nearest Embassy or Consulate for permission. They will provide you with further guidelines.
- Foreign diplomats resident in and accredited to Belize may also be allowed to enter Belize from abroad.

25. **WHAT IS MANDATORY QUARANTINE?**

If a person develops flu-like symptoms and suspects that they may be infected with COVID-19 or may have had contact with someone who has travelled to or from a country affected by COVID-19 you **MUST**

- Immediately inform the Ministry of Health
- At your own expense, be placed into mandatory quarantine at the discretion of and for a time determined by the Quarantine Authority.

26. **INFORMATION FOR MEDICAL OFFICERS**

- No medical officer employed by the Government of Belize shall engage in any independent private practice during the period of public emergency.
- Medical officers independently employed shall report to the Director of Health Services any patient that he has attended to that exhibited flu-like symptoms or who has respiratory problems.

27. **PENALTIES FOR NOT OBEYING THE LAW**

- Any person who contravenes, incites, or attempts to incite any person to contravene any of these regulations commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$5000 or imprisonment for two years.
- A person who is convicted of a second or subsequent offence under these regulations is liable to imprisonment for two years.

- Members of the security services may use force, if necessary, to ensure compliance with these Regulations.
- Any member of the security forces may enter any premises or board any ship or aircraft without a warrant.
- Any member of the security forces may arrest, without a warrant, any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to have committed an offence.

These Regulations came into effect on Monday, June 1st 2020, and will remain in effect for the duration of the public emergency.