

**BELIZE:**

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

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*Public Health (Reform)*

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**BELIZE:**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**No. 100 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 12th July, 2022).*

*WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Minister there is no longer an imminent threat of community spread of COVID-19 as statistics show a steady decrease in cases at both the district and national levels;*

*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.

“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; and

**CAP. 275.** “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 Quarantine Authority to carry out any function under these Regulations.

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

### PART III

#### *Testing institutions and testing kits*

**Approved testing institutions.** 4.–(1) Every owner or operator of a medical institution, who desires to conduct testing for SARS-CoV2, shall apply to the Ministry responsible for health for approval to conduct testing.

**Schedule.** (2) For the purposes of employment or claims for sickness benefits, only testing for SARS-CoV2 from the medical institutions specified in the Schedule 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.

**Restriction on importation of home test kits, equipment, etc.** 5.–(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.

(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 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 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.

6. 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 III

#### *Offences and Penalties*

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

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

General offence and penalty.

8.–(1) Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations or incites or attempts to incite any other person to contravene any of these Regulations commits an offence.

(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 IV

#### *Miscellaneous*

Repeal and savings. S.I. 61 of 2022.

9.–(1) The Public Health (Reform) (Prevention of the Spread of Infectious Disease) (COVID-19) Regulations, 2022 are repealed.

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

**10.** These Regulations shall come into force on the 12th day of July, 2022.

Commencement.

SCHEDULE  
*[regulation 4(2)]*

**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  
Dangriga Medical Laboratory  
Dr. D's Clinic  
Hummingbird Health Clinic  
Northern Medical Specialty Plaza  
San Carlos Medical Center  
San Pedro Urgent Care  
Southern Clinical Laboratory  
St. Luke Hospital

**MADE** by the Minister responsible for public health this  
12th day of July, 2022.



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