

BELIZE:

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

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BELIZE:**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT****No. 94 of 2020**

REGULATIONS made by the Minister in exercise of the powers conferred upon it 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 30th June, 2020.)

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Minister there is the imminent threat of the 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 are made.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

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

2.-(1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling, containing and suppressing the spread of the infectious disease COVID-19, all ports of entry into and exit out of Belize shall be closed.

**Ports of entry
and exit.**

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

- (a) cargo flights and cargo shipments;
- (b) commercial courier flights;
- (c) emergency medical travel approved by the Director of Health Services in consultation with the Minister;
- (d) emergency flights approved by the Minister in concurrence with the Department of Civil Aviation;
- (e) persons allowed to return under regulation 3 and granted permission in accordance with regulation 4.

Entry of
persons
returning to
Belize.

3.—(1) A person returning to Belize shall be allowed entry at any port of entry if that person—

- (a) is a Belizean or Permanent Resident returning from abroad with proof of having received urgent medical care;
- (b) is a Belizean or 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.

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

4. A person qualified under regulation 3 who desires to return to Belize shall apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or to the nearest consulate or embassy for permission to enter prior to arriving at any port of entry in Belize.

Permission to enter Belize.

5.-(1) Every person entering or exiting Belize contrary to regulation 2 commits an offence is liable to-

Offence and penalty for entering or exiting Belize contrary to regulation 2.

(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 7.

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

6.-(1) The following procedures shall be followed on the arrest and charge of a person who enters or exists Belize in contravention of regulation 3-

- (a) upon arrest and charge, the person shall immediately be submitted to the Ministry of Health for testing;
- (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 of 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 5 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.

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

**Mandatory
quarantine.**

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

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

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

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

(5) Where a person kept under quarantine develops flu-like symptoms, the Quarantine Authority shall direct that

the person be put into immediate isolation at a designated hospital or other isolation centre.

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

Offences in relation to mandatory quarantine.

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

- (a) contravenes regulation 7; or
- (b) 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) three months imprisonment.

(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.

Commencement.

9. These Regulations come into force on the 1st day of July, 2020.

MADE by the Minister responsible for quarantine this 30th day of June, 2020.



HON. PABLO MARIN
Minister of Health

(Minister responsible for quarantine)