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EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19)(NO.2) ORDER, 2020

Arrangement of Order

Order

1.	Citation and duration.....	2
2.	Curfew.....	2
3.	Work remotely from home.....	2
4.	Public Service.....	2
5.	Closure of businesses and exceptions.....	2
6.	Physical distancing protocols.....	3
7.	Shelter in place.....	3
8.	Education and religious instruction.....	4
9.	Restriction on social activities.....	4
10.	Restriction on international travel.....	5
11.	Restriction on domestic travel.....	5
12.	Closure of occasional markets and public beaches.....	6
13.	Restriction on road traffic.....	6
14.	Public transportation.....	6
15.	Restriction on visitation.....	6
16.	Exempted businesses and undertakings.....	6
17.	Penalty.....	7
18.	Guidelines.....	7
19.	Revocation of S. I. No. 23 of 2020.....	7



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S.I. No. 27 of 2020

EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19) REGULATIONS, 2020 (CHAPTER 34)

EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID 19)(NO.2) ORDER, 2020

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by the Emergency Powers (Covid 19) Regulations, 2020, I HEREBY make the following Order for every island and cay in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas —

1. Citation and duration.

- (1) This Order may be cited as the Emergency Powers (Covid 19)(No. 2) Order, 2020.
- (2) This Order shall come into force at 9:00 a.m. on the 24th day of March, 2020 and shall expire at 9:00 a.m. on the 31st day of March, 2020.

2. Curfew.

A curfew is imposed every day for twenty-four hours except as provided herein or as may be approved by the Commissioner of Police.

3. Work remotely from home.

- (1) All businesses and offices may only continue their business operations by allowing their employees to work remotely from home utilizing virtual means, unless those workers are permitted to work under Order 5 or are designated as being essential workers under Order 7.
- (2) Where a business is unable to have employees work remotely from home, that business shall cease its operations.

4. Public Service.

All persons employed within the public service, unless specifically designated as essential workers, shall work remotely from home.

5. Closure of businesses and exceptions.

- (1) Every non-essential establishment, or business shall remain closed except for the following —
 - (a) wholesale or retail grocery stores and Farmers' Markets from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., the first two shopping hours to be reserved for seniors, disabled persons and essential workers;
 - (b) doctor's offices, hospitals or medical facilities;

- (c) pharmacies from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (d) gas stations from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (e) medical supply establishments;
- (f) hotels, excluding any casinos, spas, gyms, discotheques and restaurants therein, however such restaurants may offer take away or room service;
- (g) banks from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (h) commercial ports and related businesses from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
- (i) airports subject to Order 10(1)(a);
- (j) commercial courier flights;
- (k) drive thru or take away food vendors from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p. m.;
- (l) pet food stores;
- (m) such other businesses or undertakings as may be specifically exempted in writing by the Competent Authority,

Provided that the owner or operator of the establishment specified in (a) – (m) shall adhere to physical distancing protocols.

- (2) Subject to Order 16(2)(j), all works of construction of any sort (apart from urgent home plumbing, electrical or roof repairs) shall cease as of 7:00 p.m. from the 24th day of March, 2020.

6. Physical distancing protocols.

Every business establishment must —

- (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing of no less than six feet (6ft.) in or outside their business;
- (b) determine the number of persons that may be permitted in the establishment at any one time by permitting one person for every thirty square feet of store space;
- (c) within twenty-four hours of the commencement of this Order, place distance markers six feet apart, indicating where each customer must stand on a line at a check out point;
- (d) within twenty-four hours of the commencement of this Order, place distance markers six feet apart on the outside of the establishment, indicating where customers must stand while waiting to enter the establishment.

7. Shelter in place.

- (1) In an effort to prevent the spread of Covid 19, every person shall remain confined to their place of residence (inclusive of their yard space) to avoid

contact outside of their family except —

- (a) essential workers, who report to work;
- (b) workers required to work under Order 5;
- (c) for essential travel to the doctor, grocery store, bank, pharmacy or to refuel;
- (d) for outdoor exercise, whether alone or together with family members living under the same roof, not exceeding an hour and a half per day between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,

Provided that such person must ensure at all times to distance himself at least six feet (6 ft.) from any other person.

- (2) For the purposes of this order, an “essential worker” includes essential officers of —
 - (a) The Royal Bahamas Police Force;
 - (b) The Royal Bahamas Defence Force;
 - (c) Fire Services;
 - (d) the Department of Correctional Services;
 - (e) the National Insurance Board;
 - (f) the Department of Social Services;
 - (g) the Department of Environmental Health Services;
 - (h) the Department of Immigration;
 - (i) the Customs Department;
 - (j) waste disposal and sanitation companies;
 - (k) any hospital, health care or medical facility;
 - (l) essential officers of any water, electricity or other sector encompassing the provision of electronic communications including print and electronic media;
- (3) All essential workers shall at all times carry personal identification.

8. Education and religious instruction.

- (1) All religious and educational places of instruction or worship shall remain closed.
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not prohibit —
 - (a) any activity referred to therein by electronic or virtual means;
 - (b) individual attendance at a church for private individual prayer while maintaining physical distancing.

9. Restriction on social activities.

No person shall host or attend —

- (a) a private party which includes any person from outside of the immediate household of the house occupant;
- (b) a recreational or competitive sporting event;
- (c) a wedding which hosts ten or more persons other than the bride, bridegroom, official witnesses and the marriage officer;
- (d) a banquet, ball or reception;
- (e) any social event;
- (f) any other ceremony of public worship in any facility or public place which involves the participation of any member of the general public or a congregation;
- (g) a funeral, except ten members of the immediate family and at least one officiant and essential mortuary staff; or
- (h) a meeting of a fraternal society, private or social club or civic association or organization.

10. Restriction on international travel.

- (1) For the purposes of preventing, controlling and suppressing the spread of Covid 19, with immediate effect —
 - (a) except with the prior written permission of the Competent Authority, all airports including private airports and fixed-base operations (FBOs) shall be closed to incoming international flights carrying any visitor;
 - (b) all sea ports shall be closed to regional and international seafaring and private boating; and
 - (c) no visitor shall be permitted to enter and disembark for any reason, including transiting through The Bahamas.
- (2) The restriction contained in paragraph (1) does not apply to —
 - (a) outgoing flights or outgoing ships, as the case may be;
 - (b) cargo flights or cargo ships, as the case may be;
 - (c) commercial courier flights;
 - (d) emergency medical flights;
 - (e) emergency flights approved by the Civil Aviation Authority.

11. Restriction on domestic travel.

No person shall offer for hire or seek to travel on any —

- (a) mail boat, sailing inter island, except for transport of freight; or
- (b) inter island private commercial sea transport,

provided that the Competent Authority may vary any of the requirements above by Order.

12. Closure of occasional markets and public beaches.

- (1) The Fish Fry situated at Arawak Cay and other occasional markets throughout The Bahamas shall close.
- (2) The Potters Cay Dock and every other dock throughout The Bahamas shall be closed to any commercial activity and sales of any thing to the general public, including fish, conch or any other such catch.
- (3) All public beaches shall be closed.

13. Restriction on road traffic.

- (1) No person shall drive a vehicle on any public or private road for a purpose other than stated in Order 5 or 7.
- (2) The Royal Bahamas Police Force shall have powers to stop any vehicle and inquire as to the purposes for which that vehicle is being utilized; and to arrest anyone found in violation of this restriction.
- (3) For the purposes of this Order, “vehicle” includes a motor vehicle or motor bike.

14. Public transportation.

No person shall offer for hire or seek to travel on any public bus transportation.

15. Restriction on visitation.

No person shall visit or be permitted to visit —

- (a) any place of quarantine or isolation station;
- (b) a patient in a hospital or residential care establishment or facility;
- (c) a detainee in a correctional facility.

16. Exempted businesses and undertakings.

- (1) Any business or undertaking exempted pursuant to Order 3(1)(xiii) of the Emergency Powers (Covid 19)(No. 1) Order, 2020 shall cease operations with effect from the 24th day of March, 2020, unless otherwise continued to be exempted as specified in paragraph (2).
- (2) The businesses and undertakings that are exempted as referred to in paragraph (1) are —
 - (a) any water production and depot facility from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
 - (b) The Bahamas Red Cross;
 - (c) Freeport Container Port;
 - (d) Freeport Harbour Company;
 - (e) The Bridge Authority;

- (f) Cloud Carib Limited;
- (g) a business licensed to provide security guard services;
- (h) a credit union;
- (i) a commercial bakery;
- (j) only construction companies carrying on hurricane relief reconstruction and restoration efforts in the islands of Grand Bahama, Abaco and their respective cays.

17. Penalty.

Any person, company or organization who contravenes any order given herein is liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding eighteen months or to both.

18. Guidelines.

The Competent Authority may issue guidelines to provide for further clarification on these Orders.

19. Revocation of S. I. No. 23 of 2020.

The Emergency Powers (Covid 19)(No. 1) Order, 2020 is hereby revoked.

Made this 23rd day of March, 2020

**Signed
HUBERT MINNIS
Prime Minister**