

LEGAL NOTICE NO. 291

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, CH. 12 NO. 4

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE MINISTER UNDER SECTION 105 AND CONFIRMED BY THE
PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 167 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE

THE PUBLIC HEALTH [2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
(2019-nCoV)] (NO. 24) REGULATIONS, 2020

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health [2019 Novel
Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] (No. 24) Regulations, 2020. Citation

2. During the period specified in regulation 12, a person shall not, Public
without reasonable justification— gatherings

- (a) be found at any public place where the number of persons gathered at any time exceeds five;
- (b) participate in any group contact sports; or
- (c) participate in any team sports, except with the approval of the Minister.

3. (1) For the purposes of controlling and preventing the spread of the
2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), it shall be an offence, during the
period specified in regulation 12, for any person to— Restriction of certain activities

- (a) be found at or in any beach, river, stream, pond, spring or similar body of water or any public pool;
- (b) operate a club as defined in section 2 of the Registration of Clubs Act; Chap. 21:01
- (c) operate a theatre or dancehall licensed under the Theatres and Dancehalls Act; Chap. 21:03
- (d) operate a party boat or club;
- (e) hold public parties or public fetes;
- (f) operate a theatre licensed under the Cinematograph Act; Chap. 20:10
- (g) operate a common gaming house or betting office licensed under the Gambling and Betting Act; Chap. 11:19
- (h) operate a gym or fitness centre;
- (i) have a public or private pre-school, early childhood education centre, primary school, secondary school or tertiary institution open for classes in such places;
- (j) operate a day-care or pre-school for children for the care or education of young children;
- (k) conduct religious or ecclesiastical services or any other religious gatherings;

- (l) operate a water park or amusement park;
- (m) provide the amenity of seated dining to any customer at a restaurant or in a food court at a mall;
- (n) allow the amenity of consumption of food or drinks at bars, its premises or precincts; or
- (o) allow roadside consumption of any product provided by the street vendor selling food or drink.

(2) Notwithstanding subregulation (1)(m), (n) or (o) a restaurant, food court, bar or street vendor may provide take-away service to its customers.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulation (1)(i), a public or private pre-school, early childhood education centre, primary school, secondary school or tertiary institution may provide classes to its students by electronic or other means as approved by the Minister.

(4) Notwithstanding subregulation (1)(i), educational establishments may be open for the purpose of conducting—

- (a) the Secondary School Entrance Assessment (SEA) Exam on 20th August, 2020 or such other date as the Minister may declare;
- (b) the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examination and the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) Examination; or
- (c) the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE),

and such establishments shall comply with all guidelines for Educational Establishments issued by the Ministry of Health.

(5) Notwithstanding subregulation (1)(k) a religious or ecclesiastical organisation or any other religious organisation may conduct funerals, weddings, christenings, baptisms or such other religious gatherings, where the gathering does not exceed ten persons and the organisations comply with the Guidelines for Places of Worship issued by the Ministry of Health.

Hours of
operation

4. (1) Subject to subregulations (2) and (3), all business establishments shall only be open until 10.00 pm everyday unless permitted otherwise by the Minister.

(2) Bars shall only be open to the public from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm everyday unless permitted otherwise by the Minister.

(3) Subregulation (2) shall not apply to premises operating under a restaurant licence or special restaurant licence.

Public
transportation
restrictions

5. During the period specified in regulation 12, a person who provides public transport in a motor vehicle shall not carry in the motor vehicle more than half the number of passengers for which the motor vehicle is licensed to carry.

6. Small and large businesses shall comply with the guidelines for Small and Large Businesses issued by the Ministry of Health.

Business places

7. All air and sea ports or any place where an aircraft or ship or vessel can land shall, except in relation to air and sea cargo, remain closed to the arrival or departure of aircraft or ships or other vessels carrying passengers unless permitted by the Minister with responsibility for national security.

Closure of air and sea ports

8. (1) Notwithstanding the fact that the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has not yet approved any private medical laboratory to do testing for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), where a private medical laboratory or a medical practitioner does such testing on a person or a medical practitioner refers a person for such testing and the result of such testing is a positive result, the private medical laboratory or medical practitioner and the person so tested shall immediately report and forward the results to the Chief Medical Officer and the Regional Health Authority of the area in which the person to whom the results apply resides or works.

Requirement on private medical laboratories and medical practitioners

(2) Where a private medical laboratory, medical practitioner or a person fails to report and forward results to the Chief Medical Officer and the Regional Health Authority in accordance with subregulation (1), the owner or operator of the private medical laboratory, medical practitioner or the person, as the case may be, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

9. (1) Where the result of a test conducted by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) or by a private medical laboratory under regulation 8 shows that a person is suffering from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), the Chief Medical Officer may give such directions as he thinks fit, for—

Quarantine and treatment of persons suffering from 2019-nCoV

- (a) the restraint, segregation and isolation of that person or any other person who, by exposure to infection from that person, is likely to suffer from the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV);
- (b) the removal of a person referred to in paragraph (a) to a public hospital or a designated facility; or
- (c) the curative treatment of a person referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The Chief Medical Officer may give a direction under subregulation (1) where, in his discretion, he considers it necessary to do so—

- (a) for the purposes of preventing or controlling the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus;

- (b) in the interests of the person in relation to whom the direction is given; or
- (c) in the interests of the public health system.

(3) Where the Chief Medical Officer gives a direction under subregulation (1), the person in relation to whom the direction is given shall be informed—

- (a) of the reason for giving the direction;
- (b) of the period during which the person is likely to be required to remain at a public hospital or a designated facility for observation, surveillance or curative treatment; and
- (c) that it is an offence to fail to comply with the direction or to obstruct a medical practitioner, a nurse, a member of staff at a public hospital or a designated facility or a member of staff of a public or private ambulance service from carrying out the direction.

(4) A person who—

- (a) fails to comply with a direction under subregulation (1); or
- (b) obstructs a medical practitioner, a nurse, a member of staff at a public hospital or a designated facility or a member of staff of a public or private ambulance service from carrying out a direction under subregulation (1),

commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and imprisonment for a term of six months.

Offences 10. A person who contravenes regulations 2 to 7 commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Revocation of L.N. No. 282 of 2020 11. The Public Health [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)] (No. 23) Regulations, 2020 is revoked.

Duration 12. These Regulations shall have effect from 17th August, 2020 to 12th September, 2020.

Made this 16th day of August, 2020.

T. DEYALSINGH
Minister of Health