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BARBADOS

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Statutory Instrument

S.I. 2021 No. 78

Emergency Management (COVID-19) (No. 2) Order, 2021

S. I. 2021 No. 61

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (COVID-19) (SAFE ZONES) DIRECTIVE, 2021

WHEREAS pursuant to paragraph 17A of the *Emergency Management (COVID-19) (No. 2) Order, 2021* (S.I. 2021 No. 61) made under the *Emergency Management Act*, Cap. 160A, it is provided that the Prime Minister may on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, issue a Directive designating any area, business or establishment a safe zone to which only persons who comply with the provisions of the Directive may go or may transact business;

AND WHEREAS a public health emergency exists in Barbados;

The Prime Minister, by virtue of the power and authority vested in her and on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer pursuant to paragraph 17A of the *Emergency Management (COVID-19) (No. 2) Order, 2021*, hereby issues the following Directive:

1. This Directive may be cited as the *Emergency Management (COVID-19) (Safe Zones) Directive, 2021*.

2. This Directive applies to the following health service institutions which are hereby designated safe zones:

(a) health service institutions within the meaning of section 2 of the *Health Services Act*, Cap. 44;

(b) nursing homes, private hospitals, and senior citizens' homes within the meaning of regulation 2 of the *Health Services (Private Hospitals,*

Nursing Homes, Senior Citizens' Homes and Maternity Homes) Regulations, 2005 (S.I. 2005 No. 58);

(c) offices of dental practitioners licensed under the *Dental Registration Act*, Cap. 367;

(d) offices of medical practitioners registered under the *Medical Profession Act, 2011* (Act 2011-1);

(e) offices of paramedical professionals registered under the *Paramedical Professions Act*, Cap. 372C;

(f) all COVID-19 testing sites;

(g) quarantine and isolation facilities designated by the Chief Medical Officer; and

(k) all other non-governmental organizations that provide health services.

3.(1) The owner or operator or the person in charge of an institution enumerated in paragraph 2 shall ensure that there is prominently displayed at the entrance to the institution, a notice issued by the Chief Medical Officer indicating that the institution is a safe zone.

(2) An employee who is fully vaccinated shall produce a copy of his vaccination card or vaccination certificate to the person in charge of the institution and that person shall keep a copy of the card or certificate which shall be retained among the records of the institution.

(3) For the purposes of this Directive, a person is fully vaccinated if that person has completed a full regimen of vaccines of any of the Ministry of Health and Wellness approved COVID-19 vaccinations at least 14 days or more prior to seeking to enter or remain within the precincts of an institution listed in paragraph 2.

4.(1) An employee of an institution listed in paragraph 2 is considered at high risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19 if

(a) he works with persons who are known to be infected with COVID-19;

(b) he takes samples from persons who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19; or

(c) he cares for persons

(i) who are ill;

(ii) who are in a nursing home or senior citizens' home; or

(iii) who are in a psychiatric hospital.

(2) An employee referred to in subparagraph (1)

(a) who is fully vaccinated, shall be tested for COVID-19 at least once every 42 days; and

(b) who is not fully vaccinated, shall be tested for COVID-19 at least once every 7 days,

or at such other intervals as the Chief Medical Officer determines.

5.(1) An employee of an institution listed in paragraph 2 is considered to be at low risk of contracting or transmitting COVID-19 if

(a) he does not work with persons who are known to be infected with COVID-19; or

(b) does not care for persons referred to in paragraph 4*(c)*.

(2) An employee referred to in subparagraph (1) who is not fully vaccinated, shall be tested for COVID-19 at least once every 7 days or at such other intervals as the Chief Medical Officer determines.

(3) At least 25 percent of employees referred to in subparagraph (1) who are fully vaccinated, shall be tested for COVID-19 once every 60 days or at such other intervals as the Chief Medical Officer determines.

6.(1) Notwithstanding paragraphs 4 and 5, an employee who tested positive for COVID-19 is exempt from the testing requirement set out in those paragraphs for a period of 90 days from the date of his discharge from isolation due to COVID-19.

(2) Where an employee referred to in subparagraph (1) is not fully vaccinated, upon his resumption of duties at the institution, the person in charge of the institution shall direct the employee to visit the Barbados Government Information Service website at https://gisbarbados.gov.bb to obtain the details of where he may go to be vaccinated.

7. All employees tested for COVID-19 pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 shall produce the results of the test to the person in charge of the institution at which they work.

8. The intervals at which employees shall be tested in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 shall be displayed in a conspicuous place at the institution and every employee shall be provided with a copy of such.

9.(1) The owner or operator or person in charge of an institution shall not permit an employee who fails to comply with this Directive to enter the institution or to remain within the precincts thereof.

(2) For a period of 14 days after the commencement of this Directive, no action shall be taken against an employee or the owner or operator or person in charge of an institution for failure to comply with subparagraph (1).

10. An employee who makes a false or misleading statement or produces a false or misleading document to the person in charge of the institution to prove that

(a) he was tested for COVID-19 and the test was negative; or

(b) that he has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19,

is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of $50 000 or to imprisonment for a term of one year or to both pursuant to paragraph 17A(3) of the *Emergency Management (COVID-19) (No. 2) Order, 2021* (S.I. 2021 No. 61).

10. This Directive shall come into effect on the 8th day of November, 2021.

Made by the Prime Minister this 5th day of November, 2021.

S. BRADSHAW
Prime Minister (Ag.)