The Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations, 2020

Contents

1. Title ...................................................................................................................................................................................................................... 1
2. Interpretation .................................................................................................................................................................................................... 1
3. Conversion of building as hospital, observation camp or station .......................................................... 1
4. Exit from hospital, observation camp or station ......................................................................................... 2
5. Entry or exit from infected area ............................................................................................................................... 2
6. Disposal of body .............................................................................................................................................................................................. 2
7. Entry into premises for enquiry ................................................................................................................................. 2
8. Informing authorised officer in local authority or public health facility ................................................................. 2
9. Restriction on gathering ............................................................................................................................................................................... 2
10. Prohibition or restriction on trade .............................................................................................................................. 2
11. Prohibition or restriction on trading or vending in unsanitary conditions ....................................................... 3
12. Sanitation and hygiene in public premises .................................................................................................................. 3
13. Effecting of measures ............................................................................................................................................................................. 3
14. General offence ............................................................................................................................................................................................. 3

Schedule (Regulation 13) .................................................................................................................................................................................. 3
In exercise of the powers contained in sections 28, 30 and 114 of the Public Health Act, the following Regulations are made:

1. **Title**

   These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations, 2020.

2. **Interpretation**

   In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

   "authorised officer" means a Medical Officer of Health, Health Inspector, District Medical Officer, Environmental Health Officer or a suitably qualified person authorised in writing by the Minister or a local authority with approval of the Minister;

   "building" has the meaning assigned to the word in the Act;

   "conveyance" means a system or means of conveying people or goods from place to place and includes an aircraft, ship, train, vehicle or any other means of transportation;

   "COVID-19" means the Coronavirus Disease 2019;

   "health facility" means any site, fixed or mobile providing services to the public for the prevention diagnosis and treatment of disease or illness and includes a diagnosis centre, a hospice and a hospital;

   "infected area" means a part of the Republic or any conveyance declared as being or appearing to be threatened by the epidemic of COVID-19; and

   "unsanitary condition" means a condition or circumstance that might generate, promote or transmit COVID-19 to a person.

3. **Conversion of building as hospital, observation camp or station**

   The ministry responsible for health may convert a suitable building to a hospital, observation camp or station for the purpose of placing a person suffering or suspected to be suffering from, or who has been in contact with a person suffering from COVID-19.
4. **Exit from hospital, observation camp or station**

(1) A person shall not leave a hospital, observation camp or station referred to in regulation 3 without the permission of an authorised officer.

(2) A person shall comply with any direction of the authorised officer under subregulation (1).

5. **Entry or exit from infected area**

(1) A person shall not enter or leave an infected area without—

(a) the permission of an authorised officer in a local authority of the infected area; and

(b) complying with any direction given by an authorised officer in a local area.

(2) Subject to subregulation (1) a person who intends to enter or leave an infected area may, before entering or leaving the infected area, be required to undergo the following:

(a) medical examination;

(b) disinfection; or

(c) remain for a specified period in a hospital, an observation camp or station converted under regulation 3.

6. **Disposal of body**

The body of a person who has died from COVID-19 shall be disposed of in conformity with the directions of an authorised officer.

7. **Entry into premises for enquiry**

An authorised officer may enter premises to search for a case of COVID-19 or to enquire whether there is or has been a case of COVID-19.

8. **Informing authorised officer in local authority or public health facility**

A person who becomes aware or has reason to suspect that another person has died or is suffering from COVID-19 shall immediately inform the nearest authorised officer in a local authority or a public health facility.

9. **Restriction on gathering**

A public ceremony or gathering shall not be held in an infected area without the written permission of an authorised officer.

*regulation 9 substituted by section 2 of Statutory Instrument 62 of 2020*

10. **Prohibition or restriction on trade**

(1) An authorised officer may prohibit or restrict the trade of food products and ready to eat foods from and in any location which may pose a danger to health of the consumers and the traders.

(2) An authorised officer may, in accordance with subregulation (1), institute measures for preventing or limiting the danger to health.
11. **Prohibition or restriction on trading or vending in unsanitary conditions**

An authorised officer shall prohibit or restrict trading in or vending of food in unsanitary conditions.

12. **Sanitation and hygiene in public premises**

(1) An authorised officer may inspect public premises in order to ensure that it has sufficient sanitation and hygiene to prevent the occurrence or transmission of COVID-19.

(2) An authorised officer may order the cleaning or closure of a public premise or burial of any contaminated water body where the authorised officer determines that public premises or a water body does not have sufficient sanitation and hygiene to prevent the occurrence or transmission of COVID-19.

13. **Effecting of measures**

The measures referred to in these Regulations will be effected if the urgency category levels described in the Schedule reach the alert level.

14. **General offence**

A person who fails to comply with a direction, prohibition or restriction of an authorised officer or otherwise contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

**Schedule (Regulation 13)**

**Urgency Category Levels**

The Urgency Category Levels are as follows:

(a) ‘alert level’ conveying the highest level of importance and warranting immediate action or attention;

(b) ‘advisory level’ requiring the provision of important information for a specific incident or situation and does not require immediate action; or

(c) ‘update level’ requiring the provision of updated information for a specific incident or situation and unlikely to require immediate action.

Dr C. Chilufya,

Minister of Health