



# Official Gazette

**No. 110**

**XLV**

**No. 110**

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**Published by Authority**

**Thursday 31st December 2020**

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## GOVERNMENT NOTICES

The following Government Notice is published by Order of the President.

No. 1088 of 2020

## GAZETTE SUPPLEMENTS

The following Notice and Regulations are published as Legal Supplements to this number of the Official Gazette.

<b>Gazette</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Price</b>
110	Digitization and Publication of Gazette Act (Commencement) Notice, 2020. (S.I. 162 of 2020)	1.15
	Excise Tax (Amendment of Schedule 1) (No.3) Regulations, 2020. (S.I. 163 of 2020)	8.00
	Gazette Regulations, 2020. (S.I. 164 of 2020)	1.60
	Customs Management (Prohibited and Restricted Goods) (Amendment) (No.3) Regulations, 2020. (S.I. 165 of 2020)	1.15
	Customs Management (Tariff and Classification of Goods) (Amendment) (No.5) Regulations, 2020. (S.I. 166 of 2020)	2.75

No. 1089 of 2020

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 2015**

*(Act 13 of 2015)*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH (INFECTIOUS DISEASES) REGULATIONS**

## **ORDERS**

**Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (No. 5) Order, 2020**

**Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (Restriction on operation of activities and opening and closing hours of establishments, trade premises and shops) (No. 4) Order, 2020**

**RECOGNISING** that the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread and continue to spread rapidly across the world;

**RECALLING** that the Public Health Commissioner published a Notice in the Gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 declaring a Public Health Emergency in Seychelles under section 25(5) of the Public Health Act, 2015, and directed all persons to comply with the directions and orders therein, and cooperate with the Public Health Commissioner, the Public Health Authority and other relevant authorities in preventing, controlling and suppressing the spread of COVID-19 in Seychelles;

**FURTHER RECALLING** that the Public Health Commissioner made several Orders to, amongst other things, in order to prevent, control and suppress the spread of COVID-19 in Seychelles —

- (a) prohibit public assemblies and indoor public assemblies;
- (b) restrict the opening and closing hours of retail outlets and retail food outlets;
- (c) restrict the opening and closing hours of offices, establishments, trade premises and shops;
- (d) restrict movement of persons by vehicles and vessels;
- (e) prohibit non-Seychellois from entering Seychelles;
- (f) confine persons to their place of residence, inclusive of their yard space, for a period of 28 days; and restrict entry to, exit from and return to Seychelles.

**AND FURTHER RECALLING** that by the enactment of the Public Health (Infectious Disease)(Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks) regulations, 2020 (S.I. 132 of 2020) the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all persons in Seychelles on public transportation, indoor places , outdoor places, places of work and other circumstances where one metre physical distancing cannot be maintained subject to conditions and exemptions thereunder.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that up to the present time, the health care providers and public health officers last recorded and reported several cases of persons infected by COVID-19 on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, and the incidence of community transmission of the virus;

**FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING** that the current circumstances in relation to the recorded cases of persons infected by COVID-19 require making further prohibition or restriction orders and varying some prohibitions, restrictions and orders so as to effectively prevent, control and suppress the spread of COVID-19 subject to such exceptions and exemptions set out in the said Order and at the same time to enable persons to participate actively and fully in the sustainable development of Seychelles;

**BEING CONSCIOUS** of the seriousness of problems and threats that COVID-19 poses to the safety, health and posterity of Seychelles and its people, if suitable precautionary and protective health measures are not in place;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in exercise of the powers conferred by regulation 6 (restriction of attendance of schools), **regulations 9** (*Effect of Prohibition Orders*), **11** (*Outdoor assemblies*) and **12** (*Restriction on games and the activities on the beach*) of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations (S.I. 8 of 1960), the Public Health Commissioner hereby makes the following orders until further notice published on any official Government website or official means of communication and, as soon as possible thereafter, in the Gazette —

**A. Restriction on attendance of Schools**

(*Regulation 6*)

In accordance with regulation 6 of the **Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1960**, the Public Health Commissioner hereby prohibits any pupil or student from attending any school for a period of 14 days starting from 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, and ending at 12 AM on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

Nothing in this Order prevents a pupil or student from attending any school through any electronic medium.

In furtherance of this Order, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Education or Chief Education Officer, as the case may be, shall issue a written notice to the head or management of any school concerned to immediately comply with this Order and any further directions given to the head or management of the school by the Public Health commissioner.

In this Order “school” means any public or private institution for preschool, primary, secondary or higher education in Seychelles.

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**B. Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (No. 5), Order, 2020**

*(Regulation 8 read with 9, 11, 12 & 20)*

In accordance with regulation 8 read with regulations 9, 11, 12 and 20 of the **Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1960**, the Public Health Commissioner hereby orders the prohibition of public assemblies and indoor public assemblies in Seychelles from 10.00 A.M. of 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2020, until further notice.

In furtherance of the Order and in accordance with regulation 9, 11 and 12 of the **Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1960** —

1. Every person shall refrain from engaging in or taking part in public assemblies, whether outdoor or indoor.
2. (1) Subject to this Order, no assembly of more than 4 persons shall be held for any purpose in any area or place, including but not limited to buildings, beaches, roads.  
 (2) A person may make an application to the Public Health Commissioner to hold an assembly of more than 4 persons on a specified date and time, and if the application is approved, every person in the assembly shall comply with the Public Health (Infectious Disease) (Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks) regulations, 2020, and the existing guidelines issued by the Public Health Commissioner and the Public Health Commissioner may impose such conditions as he deems necessary.
3. For the purposes of preventing, controlling and suppressing the spread of COVID-19:-
  - 3.1 no person shall host any private entertainment event such as a house party which includes any person from outside of the immediate household of the house;
  - 3.2 no person shall attend any sporting event as spectator.
4. A person who encourages, coerces, entices or persuades any person to engage in or take part in an assembly of more than 4 persons commits an offence.
5. No group of four or more persons (unless they are part of the same household or at school, where the school closing order has been lifted, or at the workplace) shall assemble spontaneously including when making use or accessing any service. Any such spontaneous assembly shall disperse and any member of such group who fails to depart the assembly when instructed by a police officer to do so commits an offence and may be arrested without warrant.
6. This prohibition order shall not have the effect of prohibiting assembly exclusively for the following purposes —
  - 6.1 work at the workplace;
  - 6.2 attendance of school or school activities (where the school closing order has been lifted);
  - 6.3 shopping;

- 6.4 access to healthcare facilities;
- 6.5 travel at bus stops, bus station, ports or airports;
- 6.6 consumption at restaurant or other appropriate trade premises;
- 6.7 funeral service;
- 6.8 celebration of marriage in church at the Civil Status office or other approved venues comprising of the parties, the celebrant, witnesses and a limited number of invitees as per guidelines issued by the Public Health Commissioner;
- 6.9 any sporting event without any spectator; or
- 6.10 making use of any other service that is permitted to operate,

provided that the employer, worker, owner, manager, consumer or any person in control of the premises or providing the service or organising the event shall comply with any direction of the Public Health Commissioner in respect of social or physical distancing and hygiene and ensure compliance with the Public Health (Infectious Disease) (Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks) regulations, 2020.

- 7. All establishments, institutions, businesses, organisations authorised to conduct any activity shall ensure that all persons on its premises comply with the Public Health (Infectious Disease) (Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks) regulations, 2020 and observe and practice good and consistent hand hygiene and social or physical distancing, as the case may be, according to directions issued by the Public Health Commissioner in respect of the workers, customers, students, attendees or invitees and should employ adequate number of staff to ensure practice and observance thereof so as to remove the risk of infection or spread of COVID-19.
- 8. Appropriate action shall be taken against any person who fails to comply with this order under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations.

**C. Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (Restriction on operation of activities and opening and closing hours of establishments, trade premises and shops) (No. 4) Order, 2020**

*(Regulation 8 read with 9(2))*

In accordance with regulation 8 read with regulation 9(2) of the Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1960, the Public Health Commissioner hereby orders that —

- 1. All shops or retail or wholesale outlets shall close from 8:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- 2. The following business, trade, activity, trade premises or premises, as the case may be, shall remain closed to the public or shall not operate —
  - 2.1 religious service and ceremonies;
  - 2.2 public bar unless the bar is an attendant facility of a restaurant or a hotel;
  - 2.3 cinema;
  - 2.4 casino;
  - 2.5 gymnasium and fitness centres;
  - 2.6 night clubs, dance halls or and discotheques;
  - 2.7 spa treatments establishments;
  - 2.8 stadiums for sporting events;
  - 2.9 fairs, fun fairs, fancy fairs, parish fetes;
  - 2.10 amusement parks;
  - 2.11 festivals;
  - 2.12 cultural and musical shows, concerts or performances;
  - 2.13 trade fairs consisting of exhibition, advertisement or sale of the products of industries or of other materials.

3. All establishments, institutions, businesses, organisations authorised to conduct any activity or to be open to the public shall at all times ensure compliance with the Public Health (Infectious Disease) (Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks) regulations, 2020 and observe and practice good and consistent hand hygiene and social or physical distancing according to directions issued by the Public Health Commissioner in respect of their workers and customers and should employ persons to ensure practice and observance thereof so as to remove the risk of infection or spread of an infectious disease.

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**D. Miscellaneous Orders**

1. The following orders shall apply to Orders A, B and C above:-
  - 1.1 The owner, manager or operator of a trade premises or public place providing a service to the public shall ensure that persons inside the trade premises wear face masks and shall restrict the number of customers or persons inside the trade premises or public place at any one time so that each customer or person is able to physically and optimally distance himself or herself from any other person;
  - 1.2. Each person in a public place shall at all times wear face masks and maintain optimal physical distance from another person as part of the observance and promotion of social or physical distancing;
  - 1.3. Necessary action may be taken against any person who fails to comply with any of these orders;
  - 1.4. Any person who contravenes an order without reasonable excuse commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding SCR20,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years or to both.

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**E. Repeal**

1. The following Orders are hereby repealed:-
  - 1.1 The Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (No. 4) Order, 2020.
  - 1.2 The Infectious Disease (Prohibition of Public Assemblies) (Restriction on operation of activities and opening and closing hours of establishments, trade premises and shops) (No. 3) Order, 2020.

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**F. Valid Orders**

1. Save for the Orders repealed, all Orders made including the following remain in full force and effect:-
  - 1.1 The Infectious Disease (Restriction on entry to, exit from and return to Seychelles) (No. 3) Order, 2020.
  - 1.2 The Infectious Disease (Restriction on travel) (No. 3) Order, 2020.

**DATED ON THIS WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

**DR. JUDE GEDEON  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER**

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