



**LAGOS STATE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EMERGENCY PREVENTION)  
REGULATIONS 2020**

**PREAMBLE**

**Whereas**, the World Health Organization has designated Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a pandemic spreading rapidly all over the world with devastating effect.

**Whereas**, on the 27th day of February, 2020, an index patient was identified in Ogun State and brought to Lagos State, to be quarantined and treated.

**Whereas**, from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, up until the date hereof, there was a slow rise in number of people testing positive for COVID-19, with a spike in numbers beginning on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of March, 2020.

**Whereas**, in the last 24 hours alone, a large number of people have come up for tests, and both epidemiologists and virologists, have projected that there will be a surge in the number of COVID-19 patients.

**Whereas**, between the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, and the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2020, when the Nigerian international airspace was closed to landing of passenger flights into Nigeria, and in particular Murtala Mohammed Airport 1, a number of people flew back to Nigeria from COVID-19 high incidence countries including USA, the UK, Italy and Germany.

**Whereas**, it has turned out that a number of people returning to Nigeria in the period aforesaid have been exposed to COVID-19 with many not proven to have self-isolated and mingled with other residents of Lagos State.

**Whereas**, no less than eight million people move around Lagos State every business day in crowded public transport vehicles, in large retail but congested markets.

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**Whereas**, between the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020 and the date hereof, I as Governor have made announcements requesting certain measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.

**Whereas**, in spite of the measures aforesaid, it is observed that many residents do not respect social distancing suggestions, and have carried on mingling in religious, social and other circles without regard to the high contagion rate of COVID-19.

**Whereas** the facilities and infrastructure for handling infectious diseases is severely limited in Lagos State and indeed the whole federation.

**Whereas**, it has become imperative to go beyond making suggestions and giving directives in order to stem the tide of the spread of COVID-19, save lives, reduce ill health and ensure that the economy in which the people of Lagos State operate does not become weakened and stretched.

**Now therefore**, I, **Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu**, Governor of Lagos State, in the exercise of the plenitude of powers conferred on me in that regard by Lagos State Public Health Law Cap Ch. P16. Laws of Lagos State 2015, and in particular, by Section 8 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, (having regard to the provisions of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004,) and further pursuant to all other enabling laws and powers in that regard, hereby, (subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), make the following Regulations for the good order, safety, security and public health of and in Lagos State.

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**1. CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION**

- (1) This Regulation may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Emergency Prevention) Regulations 2020 and shall come into force on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.
- (2) All acts done prior to the commencement of these Regulations to curtail the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) are hereby ratified.

**2. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

The terms below shall have the following meaning, for the purpose of the Regulation:

“**Child**” means a person under the age of 18;

“**Coronavirus**” means severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);

“**Coronavirus disease**” means COVID-19 (the official designation of the disease which is caused by coronavirus).

“**Governor**” means the Governor of Lagos State.

“**Potentially Infectious Person**” means a person:

- (a) who is, or may be, infected or contaminated with COVID-19, and there is a risk that the person might infect or contaminate others in the Local Area with COVID-19, or
- (b) who has been in an Infected Area within 14 days preceding the arrival and entry into the Local Area.

“**Infected area**” means any country, territory or other area outside Lagos State which the Governor so designates as a country, territory or area -

- (a) where there is known or thought to be sustained human-to-human transmission of COVID-19, or



(b) from which there is a high risk that COVID-19 will be transmitted to the Local Area.

**3. PURPOSE**

The Purpose of this Regulation is to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 within the Local Area.

**4. LOCAL AREA DECLARATION**

The following as of the date hereof and until otherwise notified by the Governor in writing by way of an Order under the hand of the Governor, are hereby designated local areas –

- (a) all the local government areas in Lagos State;
- (b) all Local Development Areas in Lagos State, to the extent not within a local government area;
- (c) all the area, including roads, bridges, pathways, waterways or anyway howsoever surrounding and circling the Murtala Mohammed Airport Complex, especially the international, domestic, cargo and private wings;
- (d) all the area, including roads, bridges, pathways, waterways or anyway howsoever surrounding both the Apapa Port and Tin Can Island Ports Apapa and Kirikiri lighter terminal;
- (e) all the jetties and other ports within the geographical boundaries of Lagos State; and
- (f) all land, sea, lagoon, river and other entry points into Lagos State, within the meaning and intendment of Section 2 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

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**5. DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE DECLARATION**

It is hereby declared that COVID-19 is a Dangerous Infectious Disease within the meaning and intendment of Section 2 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and that it constitutes a serious and imminent threat to the public health of the people in the Local Area.

**6. POWER OVER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS PERSONS**

- (1) The Governor may direct that a Potentially Infectious Person within the Local Area shall immediately go to a place specified for screening and assessment.
- (2) The Governor may direct the removal of a Potentially Infectious Person, where such person fails or refuses to go to a place specified for screening and assessment.
- (3) The Governor may direct that a Potentially Infectious Person within a Local Area, goes into isolation for an initial period of fourteen (14) days.
- (4) For the purposes of sub-regulations 1 and 3, where the Potentially Infectious Person is a Child, the Governor may –
  - (a) direct or require the parent or guardian of the Child to take the Child immediately to a place specified for screening and assessment in compliance with sub-regulations 1.
  - (b) direct that the parent or guardian of the Child shall, so far as reasonably practicable, secure that the Child complies with any direction, instruction, requirement or restriction given to or imposed on the Child under of sub-regulation 3.



- (5) Where the Child is not accompanied by a parent or guardian, the Governor may direct that —
- (a) if practicable, the parent or guardian be notified before the powers under sub-regulations 1 and 3 are exercised, or
  - (b) if not practicable, a reasonable step be taken after the exercise of these powers to notify the parent or guardian of the Child.
- (6) Where the Potentially Infectious Person fails or refuses to go into or remain in isolation for the prescribed period, the Governor may direct the removal of such person to an isolation center within the Local Area and shall hold the person in an isolation centre for an initial period of fourteen (14) days.

Provided that:

- (a) any cost incurred for the removal and isolation of the Potentially Infectious Person in an isolation centre within the Local Area, shall be borne by such person;
  - (b) Where the Potentially Infectious Person is a Child, any cost incurred for the removal and isolation of such Child in an isolation centre within the Local Area, shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the Child.
- (7) The Governor shall make provision for the proper care of Potentially Infectious Person that has been placed in isolation, in an isolation centre within the Local Area, as it deems necessary.

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## **7. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT**

- (1) The Governor shall have power to direct the restriction of movement within, into, or out of the Local Area, particularly, the movement of persons, vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft on waterways within the local area save for –
- (a) transportation or movement of essential supplies such as food, water, pharmaceutical products, medical supplies and medicines, and any other essential supplies as the Governor may deem necessary;
  - (b) movement for the purposes of procuring essential supplies such as food, water, pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, and any other essential supplies as the Governor may deem necessary; and
  - (c) movement of essential services personnel.

## **8. POWER RELATING TO EVENTS, GATHERINGS AND PREMISES**

- (1) The Governor may –
- (a) restrict or prohibit the gathering of persons in the Local Area, such as conferences, meetings, festivals, private events, religious services, public visits, and such other events, save where the written approval of the Governor is obtained for such gathering;
  - (b) impose requirements for obtaining the written approval of the Governor for gathering of persons within the Local Area;
  - (c) order the temporary closure of public places, such as event centers, bars, places of worship, educational institutions, and other such public places where gathering of persons occur within the Local Area;



(d) order the temporary closure of markets save for:

- (i) food and water markets or stores;
- (ii) manufacturers of food and water;
- (iii) manufacturers of pharmaceutical, medical supplies and medicine;
- (iv) pharmacy; and
- (v) any other place rendering essential services as the Governor may deem necessary.

(e) impose restrictions on the number of persons that may be present in a public place, such as an event centers, bars, places of worship, educational institutions, and other public places as the Governor may deem necessary.

(2) For the purposes of sub-regulation 1, the Governor shall have the powers to direct relevant security agency in the Local Area to breakup any gathering of persons in the Local Area, and may take into custody, persons in such gathering in breach of sub-regulation 1, for the purpose of screening and assessment, and if necessary, for isolation in an isolation centre within the Local Area.

#### **9. POWER OVER CONDUCT OF TRADE, AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Save as otherwise provided in regulation 8 (d), the Governor shall have power to restrict in whole or in part; the conduct of trade, business and commercial activities within the Local Area, for such period as the Governor may deem necessary.





**10. CLOSURE OF PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA**

The Governor shall have the power to order the closure of public, educational and vocational institutions within the Local Area, for such period as the Governor may deem necessary.

**11. POWER IN RELATION TO FOOD, DRUGS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SUPPLY CHAIN, HOARDING AND PRICE MANIPULATION**

- (1) The Governor may direct that no person shall hoard foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area, or refuse to provide foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (2) It shall be an offence to artificially inflate the prices of foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (3) It shall be an offence to hoard foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the local area or refuse to provide foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (4) Where a person breaches the directives under sub-regulations (1) and (2), the Governor may direct the seizure and forfeiture of the foods, drugs and other essential goods to the State, and may in addition, direct that such forfeited foods, drugs and other essential goods be utilized for the purposes of alleviating the supply needs in the Local Area.



**12. TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF THE REMAINS OF PERSON INFECTED WITH COVID-19**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Lagos State Cremation Law of 2013, or any other law in this regard, the Governor shall have power to specify the manner in which, and conditions subject to which the remains of any person infected with COVID-19 within the Local Area or outside the Local Area, shall be transported, stored and disposed of, including the power to order cremation of the remains of such person within the Local Area.

**13. POWER TO PROHIBIT THE TRANSMISSION OF FALSE INFORMATION**

(1) The Governor shall have power to prohibit the transmission, or dissemination through a computer system or network or otherwise, of false information regarding COVID-19 within the Local Area and/or any circumstances related to or bordering on the outbreak or possible outbreak of COVID-19 within a Local Area.

(2) The Governor shall have power to prohibit persons from promoting unverified, untested, or unapproved cures, vaccines or other similar medicinal items that purport to cure, alleviate or reduce instances of persons infected, or believed to be infected, with COVID-19 within the Local Area.

**14. POWER TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATION**

The Governor may direct medical practitioners and health workers within the Local Area to notify the Governor, through the Ministry of Health or any other health officer charged with such responsibility, of any person that presents the symptoms of COVID-19 within the Local Area.

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## 15. OMNIBUS POWERS

- (1) The Governor may where he has reasonable grounds to believe that members of the public in the Local Area are threatened by the imminent risk of being infected or contaminated by COVID-19, and that there is a risk that unless restrictions are imposed, there might be further contamination and/or infection of other members of the public in the Local Area, impose restrictions or requirements as may be necessary to curtail the spread.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Regulation, the Governor shall have power to issue directives and take all necessary action to prevent, protect, control or contain the incidence or transmission of COVID-19 within the Local Area.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-regulation 2, such power may include:
  - (a) power to order any person within the Local Area to stay at home for such time as the Governor may deem necessary;
  - (b) power to deploy law enforcement officers to enforce directives relating to restriction of movement or access to public spaces;
  - (c) power to construct and allocate spaces as isolation centers, sanitary stations and sanitary anchorages as may be necessary; and
  - (d) power to temporarily take over possession of property for the utilization as isolation centers or for the storage of pharmaceutical and medical equipment or other products within the Local Area, subject to the payment of adequate compensation.



**16. EXERCISE OF THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR**

1. All powers conferred on the Governor under this Regulation may be exercised by the Governor directly or through such other person(s) as the Governor may designate in that regard by an instrument in writing.
2. Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, the powers conferred on the Governor under this Regulation may be exercised by way of an oral or written declaration, notices, or any other medium as the Governor may deem necessary.

**17. OFFENCES**

(1) Any person who –

- i. fails to comply with a restriction, prohibition or requirement imposed under this Regulation;
- ii. provides false or misleading information intentionally or recklessly with a view to causing panic or disaffection amongst members of the public;
- iii. obstructs any person carrying out its duties under this Regulation; or
- iv. does anything contrary to the provisions of this Regulation;

(2) shall be liable under the Quarantine Act, Q2 L.F.N, 2004, Public Health Law, Ch. P16, Laws of Lagos State 2015 and any other existing law, to fine or imprisonment or both such fine and imprisonment in accordance with extant laws.



**18. POWERS TO ALTER, AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT REGULATIONS**

The Governor may, by regulations make-

- (a) consequential alterations or amendments to these Regulations, and
- (b) supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provisions in addition to these Regulations as he considers appropriate.

Dated this <sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup>..... day of March 2020

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Babalide", is written over the printed name of the Governor.

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