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No. 33

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (ENFORCEMENT MEASURES) (CORONAVIRUS COVID-19) ORDER, 2022

WHEREAS the Central Health Committee has reported to the Minister that Jamaica appears to be threatened with or affected by the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19), and that measures apart from or in addition to those specifically provided for in the Public Health Act should be taken promptly:

NOW THEREFORE:

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Minister by section 16(1) of the Public Health Act, and of every other power hereunto enabling, the following Order is hereby made:—

Citation. 1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Public Health (Enforcement Measures) (Coronavirus COVID-19) Order, 2022, and shall extend to the whole Island.

(2) This Order shall take effect on the 18th day of March, 2022.

Enforcement. 2. The measures set out in this Order are directed to be enforced, in accordance with section 16 of the Act, for removing or otherwise guarding against the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19) and the possible consequences thereof, or for preventing or mitigating as far as possible the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19).

Requirements for entry to Jamaica. 3.—(1) A person seeking to enter Jamaica at any time during the period from March 18, 2022, to April 15, 2022, shall, prior to boarding the vessel destined for Jamaica, provide at the port of departure a negative COVID-19 test, in respect of that person—

- (a) in accordance with the specifications of the Ministry with responsibility for health and wellness; and
- (b) taken no earlier than three days prior to the date of departure for Jamaica.

(2) The requirements under this paragraph do not apply to airline crew.

Directions to persons with COVID-19 illness. 4. A person who tests positive for the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19) shall—

- (a) except for the purpose of seeking urgent medical attention remain at an abode or place of residence (excluding the yard);
- (b) to the extent possible, remain in quarantine at that abode or place of residence; and
- (c) inform the health department within the parish in which the person resides, and adhere to the directions of the Medical Officer (Health), as to the place of quarantine and the duration of the quarantine in keeping with the COVID-19 discharge protocols as directed by the Ministry with responsibility for Health and Wellness.

Directions applicable to businesses, etc. 5.—(1) The provisions of this paragraph have effect without prejudice to the provisions of any other law applicable to the operations of any business.

(2) Each owner or operator of a business, place of worship, educational institution (as defined in the Education Act), restaurant, cinema or gaming establishment, and each owner or operator of any other place to which the public has access, is directed to ensure that the following requirements are complied with at the premises concerned—

- (a) that hand washing stations, or hand sanitizing equipment, are placed and maintained at the entrance of the premises and at the entrance to every lunch room and every recreation area at the premises, so that persons entering have the opportunity to wash or sanitize their hands before entering the premises, lunch area or recreation area (as the case may be); and

- (b) that each person entering those premises, or (as the case may be) entering a recreation area or food service area on those premises, is directed to wash or otherwise sanitize their hands upon each such entry.

Directions when in place accessible to the public.

6.—(1) Each person entering the premises of a business, place of worship, educational institution (as defined in the Education Act), restaurant, cinema or gaming establishment (as the case may be), or any other place to which the public has access, or entering a recreation area or food service area on those premises, is directed to wash or otherwise sanitize their hands upon each such entry.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), during the period from March 18, 2022, to April 15, 2022, each person in an enclosed place to which the public has access is directed to wear a mask fitted to that person’s face so as to cover the person’s nose and mouth.

(3) The direction set out in sub-paragraph (2) shall not apply to a person who is in a place where food or drink can be consumed, other than staff of the place concerned who are engaged in the preparation, handling or serving of food or drink.

Protection of identity of persons with, and health workers in respect of, COVID-19 illness.

7. No information shall be published which discloses the identity of—

- (a) a person who has tested positive for, or who is suspected to have, the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19), or another person who is a family member of that person; or
- (b) a person conducting any health examination, contact tracing or health investigation, in respect of any person mentioned in paragraph (a),

without that person’s express consent, and a Medical Officer may at any time make a direction to that effect.

Directions for the conduct of testing, etc. Schedule.

8. The procedures set out in the Schedule apply to the conduct of testing and the handling of samples and reports, by private laboratories, in respect of the SARS – CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19).

SCHEDULE		
(Paragraph 8)		
Activity	Person/Entity Responsible	Requirements
Order Test	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending Physician 2. Authorized Public/Private Sector Laboratory 	All tests must be conducted by authorized public/private sector laboratories which have fulfilled the requirements of the Ministry with responsibility for health and wellness.
Collect Sample	Authorized Public/Private Sector Laboratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suitable facilities/isolation room to allow for the collection of respiratory samples with the containment of infection i.e. prevention of spread of infectious agent. 2. Biosafety measures required for Category B airborne pathogens must be observed. 3. Appropriate personnel protective equipment (PPE) must be worn. 4. Medical doctor trained in the collection of the respiratory sample and/or trained staff operating under the supervision of a trained medical doctor. 5. Swabs suitable for the taking of approved respiratory samples (flocked swabs made of synthetic material) for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. RT-PCR Test Oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swab placed together in the same vial of universal transport medium (UTM) or viral transport medium (VTM);

SCHEDULE, *contd.*

Activity	Person/Entity Responsible	Requirements
Transport Sample	Authorized Public/Private Sector Laboratory	<p>b. COVID Rapid Antigen Test Nasopharyngeal swab placed in universal transport medium (UTM) or viral transport medium (VTM).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The respiratory specimens should be transported at 4-8°C and in an upright position. 2. Individual samples are to be transported with the completed laboratory investigation form in the outer pouch of the specimen bags. Line listings must accompany samples.
Test Sample	Authorized Public/Private Sector Laboratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test must be done in a Laboratory that is authorized by the Ministry of Health & Wellness through the National Laboratory Services. 2. Approved RT-PCR Test. 3. Antigen Test Kits approved by the World Health Organization and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA-USA), that have been validated by the National Public Health Laboratory and are approved for use in Jamaica. 4. Required equipment reagents and disposable items.

SCHEDULE, *contd.*

Activity	Person/Entity Responsible	Requirements
Report Results	Authorized Public/Private Sector Laboratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Results Must be Reported To: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attending/Treating Physician b. Director of Laboratory Services, National Public Health Laboratory Services; and c. National Epidemiologist. 2. Reports must be transmitted in formats approved by the Ministry with responsibility for health and wellness i.e. via individual reports or line listing containing: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Laboratory Reference Number b. Patient Name c. Patient Address d. Telephone Number e. Date of Birth f. Age g. Sex h. Clinical History (Other Symptoms) i. Care Site j. Date Sample Collected k. Date Sample Received l. Result.

SCHEDULE, *contd.*

Activity	Person/Entity Responsible	Requirements
		3. Reports must be transmitted via mechanisms approved by the Ministry with responsibility for health and wellness.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2022.

CHRISTOPHER TUFTON, MP
Minister of Health and Wellness.