

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH

P. O. BOX 10 – 9009 1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA WEST AFRICA

AMENDED AND CONSOLIDATED COVID-19 NATIONAL REGULATIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH-AUGUST 2021

Given the surge in COVID-19 cases in Liberia and the emergence of new variants globally, the Ministry of Health hereby revises the national COVID-19 Regulations pursuant to chapter 14 of the Public Health Law of Liberia to aid the management of the pandemic as follows. The Revised Consolidated Regulations will take immediate effect and remain in effect until otherwise modified:

1. Entry into Liberia

- a. The restriction on Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Brazil is hereby IMMEDIATELY lifted.
- b. All travelers entering into Liberia, except those exempted in the airport regulations, will be tested upon arrival and if positive will be transferred to the nearest treatment unit.
- c. All travelers coming into the country are advised to use the official border/entry points. The Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) is authorized to vigorously enforce this mandate.

2. All persons shall mandatorily

- a. Wear a mask at all times in public.
- b. Ensure social physical distancing of a minimum of three (3) feet from each other in public.
- c. Frequently wash their hands with soap and clean water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- d. Mandatory handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizers should be at all public and private places.
- e. Persons who test positive and their contacts. All persons who test positive for COVID-19 are subject to Liberia's Case Management guidelines. Contacts of people who test positive for COVID-19 must comply with health authorities and related health rules. Non-compliance will be prosecuted in accordance with Liberia's Public Health Law.
- 3. Offices (public/private) and businesses are required to reduce staff by 20% and shall strictly follow the health protocols listed in item #2 above. Employers should encourage their employees to be tested periodically and be vaccinated.

- All institutions of learning & places of worship strictly follow the health protocols listed in item #2 above. Authorities should encourage their attendees to be tested periodically and be vaccinated.
- 5. **INDOOR gatherings** involving up to 20 persons are permitted provided the attendees follow the health protocols listed in item #2 above. **OUTDOOR** gatherings are encouraged at no more than fifty percent capacity provided the attendees follow the health protocols listed in item #2. All are also encouraged to be vaccinated.

6. Funerals & Burials

- a. Funeral rites of **non-covid-related bodies**, with certification from the Ministry of Health, are allowed to be conducted in the church, mosque, etc. at no more than fifty percent capacity. All attendees are encouraged observe the health protocols listed in item #2, and be vaccinated.
- b. Funeral rites of covid-related bodies shall be conducted ONLY in funeral homes while still observing the 20-person limit as well as the protocols under item # 2 above.
- 7. **Transportation of the dead bodies of confirmed COVID-19 persons** on commercial carriers in and out of the Republic of
 Liberia is prohibited during this emergency. Transportation of
 positive dead bodies on chartered carriers will require Ministry of
 Health permission to do so. All airlines and funeral homes are
 advised to take note of this prohibition and all other existing health
 protocols.
- 8. **All sporting venues** are allowed to host at no more than fifty percent capacity. All spectators and players are encouraged to be vaccinated and follow the health protocols.
- 9. **All supermarkets and large stores** must insist on mask wearing and allow only 20 customers at a time, while those customers observe social distancing by being always a minimum of three feet apart. Those outside shall remain outside and stand a minimum of three feet apart as well, as they await their turn to be served. All businesses are under obligation to ensure compliance with the health protocols listed in item #2 above.
- 10. **Restaurants and cookshops** shall remain open provided persons and staff in attendance follow the health protocols listed in item #2 above.

- 11. Barber shops, lodges and beauty salons and persons and staff in attendance shall follow the health protocols listed under item #2 above.
- 12. **Banks** shall only allow 20 people at a time in the service areas and those outside the banks shall keep a distance of at least three feet apart from each other while awaiting service. Persons and staff in attendance shall follow the health protocols listed under item #2 above.
- 13. **Public transports**: taxis shall carry no more than **THREE** passengers in the back and **ONE** passenger in the front with windows kept open; kehkehs should carry only **TWO** passengers in the back and **NO** passenger in the front; motorcycles should carry no more than **ONE** passenger. Buses shall carry no more than 50% capacity with windows kept open. All drivers/riders and passengers shall follow the protocols listed under item #2 above. Compulsory mask wearing is hereby imposed in all public transports.
- 14. **All ports of entry and international travelers** shall follow these guidelines as well as all other complimentary safety instructions from the Liberia Immigration Services, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 15. All **health facilities, health institutions** and pharmacies will remain open for routine services with social distancing practices. All safety rules and procedures at hospitals and all facilities shall be strictly adhered to. Mandatory mask wearing is imposed at all health institutions.
- 16. All **marketers and buyers** are required to abide by the health protocols listed under item #2 above.
- 17. All **street sellers** are required to abide by the health protocols listed under item #2 above.
- 18. Night clubs, bars, beaches, cinemas, video clubs, entertainment centers, including hotel restaurants and guest houses shall close by 11pm. Hotels and guest houses guests can access room service after 11pm.
- 19. **Community dwellers** are required to report people who show signs and symptoms of the coronavirus such as (fever or chills, coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, new loss of taste or smell, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) in their communities to relevant health authorities, local administrative authorities (such as town chiefs and clan chiefs, etc.) or security authorities or by calling **4455**.

 Official information and communication on the COVID-19 virus shall be announced by the MOH, NPHIL or MICAT only.

21. Sanctions: Violation of these guidelines shall be dealt with in keeping with section 14.6 of the public health law which states in

part:

"Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter or any of the rules made thereunder shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or to both such fine and imprisonment".

Additionally, the government may be compelled to impose a **lockdown** if these guidelines are not fully complied with.

22. The Ministry of justice, as head of the Joint Security, shall in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, enforce these guidelines without prejudice.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF MONROVIA THIS 23 DAY OF AUGUST A. D. 2021.

Wilhemina S. Jallah, MD, MPH, CHES, FWACP

MINISTER