



EXTRAORDINARY
OFFICIAL GAZETTE
THE BAHAMAS
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

NASSAU

17th June, 2022

**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT)(NO.4) RULES, 2022**

Arrangement of Rules

Rule

1.	Citation and commencement	2
2.	Revocation and replacement of rule 9 of the principal Rules.	2
3.	Revocation and replacement of rule 12 of the principal Rules.....	3



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

S.I. No. 54 of 2022

HEALTH SERVICES ACT
(CHAPTER 231)

HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(GENERAL)
(AMENDMENT)(NO.4) RULES, 2022

The Minister in exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Health Services Act (*Ch. 231*) hereby makes the following rules —

1. Citation and commencement.

- (1) These Rules may be cited as the Health Services (Covid 19)(General) (Amendment)(No.4) Rules, 2022.
- (2) These Rules shall come into operation on Sunday the 19th day of June, 2022.

2. Revocation and replacement of rule 9 of the principal Rules.

Rule 9 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

"9. Requirement to wear a face mask.

- (1) Subject to paragraph (5), every person shall wear a face mask while away from his residence and in the company of persons who are not members of his household.
- (2) A face mask must fit securely to the face of the wearer, ensuring that both his nose and mouth are covered at all times.
- (3) Where a resident of a household exhibits symptoms of Covid 19 or has tested positive for Covid 19, that person and all other residents of that household shall wear a face mask inside the residence until that person is Covid 19 free.
- (4) Every business shall —
 - (a) deny entry to any person not wearing a face mask or not wearing a face mask in the manner described in paragraph (1); and

- (b) ensure that its employees are fitted with face masks and wear them in the manner described in paragraph (1) at all times when in the presence of other employees or customers.
- (5) A person is not required to wear a face mask —
 - (a) while in a lobby, corridor or casino of a hotel;
 - (b) while in an outdoor setting where there is at least three feet of space between persons who are not of the same household;
 - (c) while actively eating or drinking in a restaurant or aboard an aircraft or vessel; and
 - (d) if he is a person with a disability or and cannot safely wear a face mask for reasons related to the disability or medical condition, provided that such person carries a medical certificate or letter signed by a medical practitioner providing the existence of his disability or medical condition.
- (6) The requirement to wear a mask is not satisfied by the wearing of a face shield in place of a face mask.
- (7) Any person who is found not wearing a face mask in accordance with this rule commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment."

3. Revocation and replacement of rule 12 of the principal Rules.

Rule 12 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

"12. Responsibility of airline and vessel operators.

- (1) The operator of an aircraft or vessel, whether commercial or private, traveling into The Bahamas, shall not permit any person to board that aircraft or vessel without the passenger first presenting —
 - (a) if fully vaccinated, documentary evidence of his vaccination;
 - (b) if not fully vaccinated —
 - (i) a valid negative Covid 19 test result; or
 - (ii) a valid health clearance letter; or
 - (iii) where applicable, written confirmation that the person is exempted from the requirement to undergo testing in accordance with the Health Services (Covid 19) (Prevention and Management of Community Spread) Rules, 2021.

- (2) The operator of an aircraft or vessel, whether commercial or private, shall ensure —
 - (a) that a passenger continues to wear his face mask throughout the journey; and
 - (b) proper and timely sanitisation of the aircraft or vessel.
- (3) An operator of an aircraft or vessel who permits a person to travel contrary to paragraph (1), commits an offence and is liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars in respect of each passenger carried in violation thereof and on a third conviction, the aircraft or vessel shall be impounded in addition to the payment of the fines.
- (4) The operator or owner of an aircraft or vessel transporting persons into The Bahamas shall report to the Surveillance unit as soon as practicable but no later than upon arrival in The Bahamas, the details of any passenger exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19."

Made this 15th day of June, 2022

Signed
MICHAEL DARVILLE
Minister responsible for Public Health