



EXTRAORDINARY

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**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19) (PREVENTION
AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY SPREAD)
(AMENDMENT)(NO.6) RULES, 2022**

Arrangement of Rules

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

**HEALTH SERVICES ACT
(CHAPTER 231)**

S.I. No. 11 of 2022

**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19) (PREVENTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY SPREAD)
(AMENDMENT)(NO.6) RULES, 2022**

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

1. Citation and commencement.

- (1) These Rules may be cited as the Health Services (Covid 19) (Prevention and Management of Community Spread) (Amendment) (No. 6) Rules, 2022.
- (2) These Rules shall come into operation on Sunday the 20th day of February, 2022.

2. Revocation and replacement of rule 14 of the principal Rules.

Rule 14 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“14. Mandatory requirement for secondary testing.

- (1) A person who —
 - (a) enters The Bahamas; or
 - (b) travels inter island from a Second Schedule,shall on the fifth day after his arrival, be required to undergo a rapid antigen test and submit the result to the Ministry via its travel health website.
- (2) A person referred to in paragraph (1), who is out to sea on the second day of his stay, shall be required to undergo a rapid antigen test at the first port of call thereafter and submit the result to the Ministry via its travel health website.
- (3) Where the rapid antigen test indicates a positive result, that person shall be required to undergo a RTPCR test and submit to mandatory isolation in accordance with rule 21.
- (4) A person who fails to undergo a Covid 19 test in accordance with this rule commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to a term not exceeding one month's imprisonment.”.

3. Revocation and replacement of rule 29 of the principal Rules.

Rule 29 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“29. Restaurants.

- (1) A restaurant may operate provided that —
 - (a) the Covid 19 protocols are adhered to;
 - (b) tables, chairs and other implements used by patrons are sanitised after each use; and
 - (c) masks are worn by patrons when dining, at all times except when eating or drinking.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a restaurant on an island listed in the Second Schedule may operate provided that —
 - (a) the Covid 19 protocols are adhered to;
 - (b) tables, chairs and other implements used by patrons are sanitised after each use; and
 - (c) in the case of indoor dining —
 - (i) all patrons are fully vaccinated or have a valid negative rapid antigen test result;
 - (ii) the maximum seating shall be seventy-five percent of the seating capacity of that restaurant; and
 - (iii) masks are worn by patrons when dining, at all times except when eating or drinking.”.

4. Revocation and replacement of rule 31 of the principal Rules.

Rule 31 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“31. Religious instruction and activities.

- (1) A church or place of religious instruction or worship may conduct services including a wedding or a funeral in accordance with the protocols issued or approved by the Ministry.
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a church or place of religious instruction or worship on an island listed in the *Second Schedule* may conduct services provided that —
 - (a) attendance is limited to fifty percent of the occupancy of the facility where the service is being conducted;
 - (b) the applicable protocols issued or approved by the Ministry in respect of that church or place of religious instruction or worship are adhered to.”.

5. Revocation and replacement of rule 32 of the principal Rules.

Rule 32 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“32. Graveside funerals.

A funeral service may be held at a graveside provided that all attendees and officiants adhere to —

- (a) the Covid 19 protocols; and
- (b) any protocols issued or approved by the Ministry are complied with.”.

6. Revocation and replacement of rule 33 of the principal Rules.

Rule 33 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“33. Social gatherings.

- (1) A person may host or attend a social gathering indoors at —
 - (a) a private residence, with not more than forty persons; or
 - (b) a facility,
provided that —
 - (i) all attendees are either fully vaccinated or present a valid negative Covid 19 test result; and
 - (ii) all Covid 19 protocols are adhered to.
- (2) A person may host or attend a social gathering held outdoors with not more than one hundred persons provided that —
 - (a) all attendees are either fully vaccinated or present a negative Covid 19 test;
 - (b) all Covid 19 protocols are adhered to.
- (3) For the purposes of this rule, a “facility” means any venue that is not a private residence or a restaurant and includes a hotel, convention hall, ballroom, meeting room, or other space, utilised for the hosting of a social gathering.
- (4) A person who hosts or attends a social gathering contrary to this rule commits an offence and is liable upon summary conviction —
 - (a) in the case of a host, to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars and to a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars for each person in attendance; and
 - (b) in the case of an attendee, to a fine not exceeding three hundred dollars.”.

7. Revocation and replacement of rule 34 of the principal Rules.

Rule 34 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“34. Group exercise.

A person may engage in indoor group exercise subject to rule 9(4) (a) of the Health Services (Covid 19)(General) Rules, 2021, provided that the group is limited to not more than thirty persons.”.

8. Revocation and replacement of the Second Schedule to the principal Rules.

The Second Schedule to the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“SECOND SCHEDULE

(rules, 9, 11(2), 12, 29, 31 and 33)

Islands

Grand Bahama

New Providence”.

Made this 17th day of February, 2022

Signed

MICHAEL DARVILLE

Minister responsible for Public Health