



**EXTRAORDINARY**  
**OFFICIAL GAZETTE**  
**THE BAHAMAS**  
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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NASSAU

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022

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**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(GENERAL)  
(AMENDMENT)(NO.3) RULES, 2022**

**Arrangement of Rules**

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**Rule**

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS

S.I. No. 18 of 2022

HEALTH SERVICES ACT  
(CHAPTER 231)

HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(GENERAL)  
(AMENDMENT)(NO.3) 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.**

These Rules may be cited as the Health Services (Covid 19)(General) (Amendment)(No.3) Rules, 2022.

**2. Revocation and replacement of rule 8 of the principal Rules.**

Rule 8 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

**“8. Physical distancing protocols.**

- (1) Every person shall practice physical distancing of not less than three feet between himself and others who are not of the same household whenever he is away from his residence.
- (2) Every business shall —
  - (a) ensure that all customers and staff maintain physical distancing between themselves and others of not less than three feet while inside or awaiting entry outside the business;
  - (b) determine the number of persons permitted in the business at any one time on the basis of one person for every thirty square feet of floor space which is unoccupied by furnishings, fixtures or machinery and is accessible to the public;
  - (c) have distance markers three feet apart, indicating where each customer is to stand on a line awaiting entry or check out.

- (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) —
  - (a) every educational institution shall adhere to guidelines issued or approved by the Ministry for the physical distancing of persons in a classroom setting and otherwise on the campus; and
  - (b) every restaurant shall ensure that seating is arranged so that there is spacing of at least three feet between each dining party.”.

**3. 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; and
  - (c) 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 proving 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 to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment.”.

**4. Revocation of rule 14 of the principal Rules.**

Rule 14 of the principal Rules is hereby revoked.

**5. Revocation of rule 15 of the principal Rules.**

Rule 15 of the principal Rules is hereby revoked.

Made this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022

Signed  
MICHAEL DARVILLE  
Minister Responsible for Public Health