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30th September, 2022

**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(PREVENTION
AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY SPREAD))
(AMENDMENT)(NO. 15) RULES, 2022**

Arrangement of Rules

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**HEALTH SERVICES ACT
(CHAPTER 231)**

**HEALTH SERVICES (COVID 19)(PREVENTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY SPREAD))
(AMENDMENT)(NO. 15) 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, which amend the Health Services (Covid 19)(Prevention and Management of Community Spread) Rules, 2021, may be cited as the Health Services (Covid 19)(Prevention and Management of Community Spread) (Amendment)(No. 15) Rules, 2022.
- (2) These Rules shall come into operation on the 1st October, 2022.

2. Revocation and replacement of rule 25 of the principal Rules.

Rule 25 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“25. Operation of business.

- (1) Every business in operation shall adhere —
 - (a) to the Covid 19 protocols;
 - (b) any protocols issued by the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation and approved by the Ministry.
- (2) The Minister may, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, order the closure of any business due to —
 - (a) an outbreak, spread or recurrence of Covid 19; or
 - (b) non-compliance with the Covid 19 protocols.
- (3) The determination to close any business pursuant to paragraph (2), shall be contingent on the full evaluation and assessment by the Surveillance Unit.”.

3. Revocation and replacement off rule 26 of the principal Rules.

Rule 26 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“26. Residential care establishments.

Every residential care establishment shall —

- (a) ensure that all persons entering and remaining in the establishment shall adhere to all Covid 19 protocols;
- (b) have at least one isolation area that is clearly identified and appropriately equipped as may be specified by the Minister;

- (c) ensure that all employees are either fully vaccinated or submit to Covid 19 testing every three days; and
- (d) adhere to any guidelines issued or approved by the Ministry.”.

4. Revocation and replacement of rule 27 of the principal Rules.

Rule 27 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“27. Educational instruction.

- (1) An educational institution may operate, provided —
 - (a) that all persons entering and remaining on the campus shall adhere to all Covid 19 protocols;
 - (b) that there is at least one isolation area that is clearly identified and appropriately equipped; and
 - (c) that all persons adhere to all guidelines issued or approved by the Ministry.
- (2) A person is permitted to operate a home school programme provided that any guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education are adhered to.
- (3) An educational institution desirous of being exempted from the requirement to wear face masks shall apply to the Ministry and provide documentary evidence that —
 - (a) at least eighty percent of the students; and
 - (b) at least ninety-five percent of the teaching and other staff, of that educational institution are fully vaccinated.
- (4) An educational institution which has been exempted from the requirement to ensure that all students teachers or staff wear face masks is required to —
 - (a) monitor absentee rates and where such rate is 30% or more for any day, report such rate to the Ministry;
 - (b) appoint a focal point to regularly liaise with the Ministry and to notify the Ministry of any cases of Covid infection among the student, teacher or staff populations.”.

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

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

“29. Restaurants.

A restaurant may operate provided that —

- (a) the Covid 19 protocols are adhered to; and
- (b) tables, chairs and other implements used by patrons are sanitised after each use.”.

6. Revocation and replacement of rule 34A of the principal Rules.

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

“34A. Recreational activity and competitive sporting event.

- (1) A group recreational activity and competitive sporting event may be held provided that all persons, including team members, staff and officials who are not engaged in active participation, remain physically distanced and hand sanitise in accordance with the Covid 19 protocols.
- (2) A sports association or federation may oversee the training and conditioning of an athlete provided that such training and conditioning is carried out in accordance with the Covid 19 protocols and any guidelines issued or approved by the Ministry.”.

7. Revocation and replacement of rule 36 of the principal Rules.

Rule 36 of the principal Rules is revoked and replaced as follows —

“36. Spectators at a sporting activity.

Spectators at a recreational competitive or professional sporting activity shall comply with all Covid 19 protocols.”.

Made this 30th day of September, 2022

Signed
ALFRED M. SEARS
Minister responsible for Public Health