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# What Does a State of Emergency Mean for Ambergris Caye?

*Belmopan. March 23, 2020.* A Statutory Instrument was signed today, March 23, 2020, by the Governor General H.E. Sir Colville Young on the proclamation of Ambergris Caye as an emergency area.

The Statutory Instrument enforces the following Regulations:

1. Emergency area refers to the area declared to be under a public state of emergency. Every person is expected to practice social distancing, which includes the practice of staying home, avoiding crowds, and refraining from touching one another.

2. No person shall enter nor exit Ambergris Caye during the state of public emergency.

3. Gatherings in numbers of more than 10 persons at a time are not allowed on Ambergris Caye, whether in any public place, public space, or on private property. Persons in gatherings of 10 or less shall maintain a distance of no less than three feet between each person.

4. Anyone who develops flu-like symptoms and who may have had contact with someone who has travelled to a country affected by COVID-19 or is infected with COVID-19 must immediately inform the Ministry of Health.

The Regulations also state that anyone who violates the provisions of the Regulations or any order or notice given under the Regulations thereby commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for one year.

The Regulations shall be in effect during the period of the public emergency.

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