

Zambia

## The Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations, 2020

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# The Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations, 2020

## Statutory Instrument 22 of 2020

Published in [Government Gazette](#) on 13 March 2020

Assented to on 13 March 2020

Commenced on 13 March 2020

*[Up to date as at 13 March 2020]*

In exercise of the powers contained in sections 28, 30 and 114 of the Public Health Act, the following Regulations are made:

### 1. Title

These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Infected Areas) (Coronavirus Disease 2019) Regulations, 2020.

### 2. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

"**authorised officer**" means a Medical Officer of Health, Health Inspector, District Medical Officer, Environmental Health Officer or a suitably qualified person authorised in writing by the Minister or a local authority with approval of the Minister;

"**building**" has the meaning assigned to the word in the Act;

"**conveyance**" means a system or means of conveying people or goods from place to place and includes an aircraft, ship, train, vehicle or any other means of transportation;

"**COVID-19**" means the Coronavirus Disease 2019;

"**health facility**" means any site, fixed or mobile providing services to the public for the prevention diagnosis and treatment of disease or illness and includes a diagnosis centre, a hospice and a hospital;

"**infected area**" means a part of the Republic or any conveyance declared as being or appearing to be threatened by the epidemic of COVID-19; and

"**unsanitary condition**" means a condition or circumstance that might generate, promote or transmit COVID-19 to a person.

### 3. Conversion of building as hospital, observation camp or station

The ministry responsible for health may convert a suitable building to a hospital, observation camp or station for the purpose of placing a person suffering or suspected to be suffering from, or who has been in contact with a person suffering from COVID-19.

### 4. Exit from hospital, observation camp or station

- (1) A person shall not leave a hospital, observation camp or station referred to in regulation 3 without the permission of an authorised officer.
- (2) A person shall comply with any direction of the authorised officer under subregulation (1).

## 5. Entry or exit from infected area

- (1) A person shall not enter or leave an infected area without—
  - (a) the permission of an authorised officer in a local authority of the infected area; and
  - (b) complying with any direction given by an authorised officer in a local area.
- (2) Subject to subregulation (1) a person who intends to enter or leave an infected area may, before entering or leaving the infected area, be required to undergo the following:
  - (a) medical examination;
  - (b) disinfection; or
  - (c) remain for a specified period in a hospital, an observation camp or station converted under regulation 3.

## 6. Disposal of body

The body of a person who has died from COVID-19 shall be disposed of in conformity with the directions of an authorised officer.

## 7. Entry into premises for enquiry

An authorised officer may enter premises to search for a case of COVID-19 or to enquire whether there is or has been a case of COVID-19.

## 8. Informing authorised officer in local authority or public health facility

A person who becomes aware or has reason to suspect that another person has died or is suffering from COVID-19 shall immediately inform the nearest authorised officer in a local authority or a public health facility.

## 9. Restriction on gathering

A public ceremony or gathering of more than five persons, not being a family shall not be held in an infected area without the written permission of a local authority or Medical Officer of Health.

## 10. Prohibition or restriction on trade

- (1) An authorised officer may prohibit or restrict the trade of food products and ready to eat foods from and in any location which may pose a danger to health of the consumers and the traders.
- (2) An authorised officer may, in accordance with subregulation (1), institute measures for preventing or limiting the danger to health.

## 11. Prohibition or restriction on trading or vending in unsanitary conditions

An authorised officer shall prohibit or restrict trading in or vending of food in unsanitary conditions.

## 12. Sanitation and hygiene in public premises

- (1) An authorised officer may inspect public premises in order to ensure that it has sufficient sanitation and hygiene to prevent the occurrence or transmission of COVID-19.
- (2) An authorised officer may order the cleaning or closure of a public premise or burial of any contaminated water body where the authorised officer determines that public premises or a water body does not have sufficient sanitation and hygiene to prevent the occurrence or transmission of COVID-19.

### **13. Effecting of measures**

The measures referred to in these Regulations will be effected if the urgency category levels described in the Schedule reach the alert level.

### **14. General offence**

A person who fails to comply with a direction, prohibition or restriction of an authorised officer or otherwise contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred penalty units or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both.

## **Schedule (Regulation 13)**

### **Urgency Category Levels**

The Urgency Category Levels are as follows:

- (a) "alert level" conveying the highest level of importance and warranting immediate action or attention;
- (b) "advisory level" requiring the provision of important information for a specific incident or situation and does not require immediate action; or
- (c) "update level" requiring the provision of updated information for a specific incident or situation and unlikely to require immediate action.

Dr C. Chilufya,  
Minister of Health