

PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION (CORONAVIRUS) REGULATIONS 2020

Direction by Council of Ministers under Part 7A (Events and Gatherings) of the Public Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) relating to the circumstances in which persons may not gather together outside of their household

Part 1 - Direction

1. The Council of Ministers, having considered the need to ensure the health and safety of all persons with regard to Coronavirus, makes this Direction under and in accordance with Part 7A of the Regulations.
2. The Council of Ministers in making this Direction has consulted with the Director of Public Health.
3. This Direction and the prohibitions, requirements and restrictions set out in Part 2 are in operation from 00:01 on 3rd March 2021 and will remain in force until 00:01 on 24th March 2021.

Part 2 - Prohibition of events and gatherings

4. Under Regulation 33B, an event or gathering may take place in a public place or a private place unless it is prohibited by a direction notice made under regulation 33C.
5. For the purposes of regulation 33C all events and gatherings are prohibited subject to the exceptions specified in Part 3 of this Direction.

Part 3 – Exceptions to prohibition on events and gatherings

Funerals

6. A person may gather at an indoor place at which a funeral is taking place subject to any restrictions specified in any other Direction or in the Regulations, and subject to social distancing (being no closer in proximity than two (2) metres to another person) being maintained at all times between all persons present other than members of the same household
7. No more than 10 to be in attendance unless outlined in an approved risk assessment between the responsible person for the place at which the funeral is taking place and the Director of Public Health.
8. For the purposes of paragraph 6 a funeral does not include any pre or post social gathering of attendees (a wake) which shall remain prohibited.

Employment and Emergency Services

9. Where a person as an employer or employee attends a premises not required to close under any other Direction or in the case of emergency services wherever they are required to attend in fulfilment of their services.

Customers and Service Users

10. Where a person is a customer or service recipient at a shop or business premises not required to close under any other Direction.

Gathering with own household

11. Where a person takes exercise with or without members of the same household in a public place or a private place where other persons may be present in accordance with any other permitted Direction and not in breach of any Direction or the Regulations provided that appropriate social distancing is observed and the person complies with any guidance published on www.gov.im in relation to household groups or social distancing or permitted outside exercise.

Emergency Response

12. Attending at an emergency where two (2) or more people may inadvertently congregate to expedite matters for the purposes of preserving life or property provided that appropriate social distancing is maintained, including following any guidance published on www.gov.im.

Care for children or vulnerable persons

13. Caring for a child or vulnerable person in a household premises in accordance with an exception specified in a prohibition notice made under Part 6A of the Regulations.
14. Where a person ("P") permits another person ("X") to enter and remain in P's home in accordance with an exception specified in a prohibition notice made under Part 6A of the Regulations, by which X is permitted to have left his or her home.

Vehicle Sharing

15. Where a person ("P") shares a vehicle with another person ("X") and –
 - (a) P and X work for the same employer and the sharing of a vehicle in order for P and X to get to and from their place of employment or in the course of their employment is an established practice; or
 - (b) P and X are sharing the vehicle in connection with an exception specified in a prohibition notice made under Part 6A of the Regulations (including for example the collection of a child or an assisted person for whom P is to provide care), provided that as far as is reasonably practicable, social distancing (being no closer in proximity than two (2) metres to another person) is maintained at all times between all persons in the vehicle including following any guidance as published on www.gov.im.

Entering dwellings: general

16. For a person to enter a household where any other person resides is a prohibited gathering unless the person is returning to his or her usual place of residence having completed a period of self-isolation imposed by a direction notice under the Regulations.

Entering dwellings: person in self-isolation

17. For a person to enter a dwelling which is a notified place where a person living in the dwelling is in self-isolation in accordance with any direction or other restriction, requirement or condition made under the Regulations is a prohibited gathering unless entrance is permitted for the purposes set out in Part 4 of this Direction Notice, or any other permission given under the Regulations.
18. For the purposes of the restriction on gatherings in paragraph 5 of this Direction Notice, and for the avoidance of doubt, a person may not enter the dwelling or its curtilage to collect items from the dwelling or curtilage where a person is in self-isolation provided that local authority employees contractors or agents carrying out general refuse collection services may attend at a dwelling house for such collections.
19. Despite paragraph 17, a person who resides in a self-contained part of a hotel or hostel may enter the part of the hotel or hostel in which they reside, notwithstanding that another person may be in self-isolation within a separate self-contained part of the hotel or hostel.
20. Despite paragraph 17, a person may enter a dwelling which is a notified place where the person entering the dwelling is required to enter to provide care for a child or vulnerable adult in the dwelling, which shall include health care and care for the vulnerable adult's child or children, which -
- (a) could not for reasons of urgency be provided after the period of self-isolation has ended;
 - (b) the person entering the dwelling is required to enter the dwelling for the purposes of preserving life or property;
 - (c) the provision of care could not be provided otherwise than by entering the dwelling; and
 - (d) the person entering the dwelling is not subject to any requirement in a Direction made under the Regulations for self-isolation or other restriction or requirement, including any restriction on movement under the Regulations, or other legal obligation which would prohibit that person from entering the dwelling.
21. If a person enters a dwelling permitted for the purposes set out in paragraph 20, that person must ensure that where practicable, appropriate measures to mitigate the risk of transmission of infection with Coronavirus are adhered to, which shall include any protective wear, face coverings, social distancing, or other public health guidance published on www.gov.im.

Part 4- Definitions

22. In this direction notice –

- (a) "Director of Public Health", "event", "gathering", "premises", "private place", "public place", "self-isolation" and "vulnerable" all have the same meanings as in the Regulations; and
- (b) "vulnerable adult" or a "vulnerable child" is a reference to a person whose ability to protect himself or herself from physical or psychological harm is significantly impaired through physical or mental disability or illness or condition, through intellectual, physiological or psychiatric impairment, through age or otherwise.
- (c) For the purposes of paragraphs 17 to 21, 'dwelling' shall be read and construed with reference to the definition of 'notified place' under the Regulations.

Part 5 - Revocation of previous Direction Notice

Government Circular No 2021/0022 in relation to Events and Gatherings is revoked from the date and time when this Direction Notice comes into operation.

Signed: WILL GREENHOW_____

Chief Secretary on behalf of Council of Ministers

Date: 2 March 2021

Time: 22:45