

Statutory Document No. 2020/0178

*Emergency Powers Act 1936*

EMERGENCY POWERS (CORONAVIRUS) (SCHOOLS) REGULATIONS 2020

Laid before Tynwald: 27 March 2020
Approved by Tynwald: NOT MOVED
Coming into Operation: in accordance with regulation 2

The Governor in Council, by Order¹, makes the following Regulations under section 4 of the Emergency Powers Act 1936.

1 Title

These Regulations are the Emergency Powers (Coronavirus) (Schools) Regulations 2020.

2 Commencement

These Regulations come into operation immediately after they are made² and continue to have effect throughout the Coronavirus Proclamation period.

3 Interpretation

In these Regulations —

“**Coronavirus**” means severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);

“**the Coronavirus Proclamation period**” means the periods for which the following proclamations are in operation —

- (a) the Proclamation of Emergency dated 16 March 2020³; and
- (b) any subsequent proclamation which relates to the pandemic of Coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) and specifies that it

¹ Section 4(1) specifies that “Where a proclamation of emergency has been made, and so long as such proclamation is in force, it shall be lawful for the Governor in Council, by Order, to make regulations ...”.

² By virtue of section 4(2) of the Emergency Powers Act 1936, these Regulations made by Order of the Governor in Council must be laid before Tynwald within 7 days of being made and only continue in force beyond 7 days of being so laid if Tynwald passes a resolution to that effect.

³ SD 2020/0162

appears that there is a threat of that disease affecting the Island and causing serious damage to human health on, and the economic well-being of the Island;

“**premises**”, in relation to an educational institution, means any premises which persons regularly attend in order to receive services provided by the institution;

“**responsible body**” means, in relation to a school or college the governing body or, as the case may be, the proprietor (within the meaning of section 59 of the Education Act 2001);

“**school**” has the same meaning as in the Education Act 2001 (see section 59 of that Act); and

“**specified**” means specified, or falling within a description specified, in a temporary closure direction under regulation 5.

4 **General**

These Regulations contain temporary modifications of legislation relating to the attendance at premises used for the provision of education.

5 **Schools etc**

- (1) During the Coronavirus Proclamation period, the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (“the Department”) may give a temporary closure direction that applies to —
 - (a) one or more named educational institutions in the Island;
 - (b) all educational institutions in the Island (or any part of the Island);
 - (c) educational institutions in the Island (or any part of the Island) of a particular description.
- (2) A temporary closure direction under this regulation is a direction that requires the responsible body of an educational institution to which it applies to take reasonable steps to secure that persons do not, for a specified period, attend premises of the institution for purposes connected with the institution.
- (3) A temporary closure direction under this regulation may —
 - (a) require the taking of reasonable steps in general terms, or require the taking of particular steps that the Department considers reasonable;
 - (b) relate to attendance of persons generally, or to attendance by specified persons;
 - (c) relate to premises generally, or to specified premises or parts of premises;
 - (d) relate to attendance for purposes connected with an educational institution generally, or to attendance for specified purposes;

- (e) otherwise make different provision for different purposes, or be framed by reference to whatever matters the Department considers appropriate;
 - (f) include such other provision as the Department considers appropriate in connection with the giving of the direction.
- (4) A failure by a responsible body to comply with a temporary closure direction under this regulation is enforceable, on an application made by the Department, by an injunction.
- (5) An application made under paragraph (4) may be made without notice being given to the responsible body.

6 Effect of temporary closure directions on other provisions

In relation to a period during which a temporary closure direction under regulation 5 has effect in relation to a school –

- (a) there is no breach of the duty under section 24 of the Education Act 2001 (duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age) in respect of a child who is a pupil at the school but who is, as a result of the direction, unable to be in regular attendance at the school;
- (b) any failure of a child to attend the school is to be disregarded for the purposes of section 29 of the Education Act 2001 (offence of failing to secure regular attendance at school of a registered pupil) to the extent that the failure is attributable to the direction.

7 Publication, duration and guidance

- (1) A temporary closure direction under regulation 5 must be published by the Department.
- (2) A temporary closure direction under regulation 5 has effect until the earlier of –
 - (a) the end of the period specified under regulation 5(2); or
 - (b) the revocation of the direction by a further direction given by the Department under that regulation.
- (3) A person to whom a temporary closure direction under regulation 5 applies must have regard to any guidance given by the Department about how to comply with a direction given by the Department under that regulation.

MADE 19:00 23 MARCH 2020

W GREENHOW
Chief Secretary



EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations are made by the Governor in Council under section 4 of the Emergency Powers Act 1936 and following a proclamation of a state of emergency under section 3 of that Act.

These Regulations are made for the purpose of securing the essentials of life to the community of the Island and for the protection of the economy of the Island.

These Regulations empower the Department of Education, Sport and Culture (“the Department”), during the Coronavirus Proclamation period (as defined in regulation 3) to give a temporary closure direction that applies to —

- (a) one or more named educational institutions in the Island;
- (b) all educational institutions in the Island (or any part of the Island);
- (c) educational institutions in the Island (or any part of the Island) of a particular description.

Such a direction requires the responsible body of an educational institution to which it applies to take reasonable steps to secure that persons do not, for a specified period, attend premises of the institution for purposes connected with the institution.

These Regulations provide that throughout any period to which a temporary closure direction applies, there is no breach of the duty under section 24 of the Education Act 2001 (duty of parents to secure education of children of compulsory school age) and section 29 of that Act is disapplied (offence of failing to secure regular attendance at school of a registered pupil) to the extent that the failure is attributable to the direction.

Any person to whom a temporary closure direction applies must have regard to guidance prepared by the Department.