

ASCENSION
REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS, 2017

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1967¹

Ordinance A3 of 1967
In force 11 September 1967

Amended by Ordinance A9 of 2010

Subsidiary legislation:

PUBLIC HEALTH (FOOD SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 2010 *Page 10*
Legal Notice A8 of 2010

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PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1967

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Schedule: Infectious diseases

AN ORDINANCE to make provision for the maintenance of public health in Ascension.

PART I PRELIMINARY

Short title

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Public Health Ordinance, 1967.

Interpretation

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—
 - “**building**” and “**house**” include schools, factories and other buildings in which persons are employed and the curtilage of a building or house;
 - “**hospital**” means any premises or vessels for the reception of the sick, whether permanently or temporarily applied for that purpose;
 - “**infectious disease**” has the meaning given by section 8;
 - “**isolation hospital**” means a hospital for the reception of persons suffering from infectious disease;
 - “**occupier**” means, in the case of a building or part of a building, the person in occupation or who has the charge, management and control of it, either on the person’s own account or as the agent of another person, and in the case of a ship means the master or other person in charge of it;
 - “**premises**” includes lands, buildings, vehicles, structures of any kind, streams, drains, ditches or places, open, covered or enclosed, whether built on or not, and whether natural or artificial, and any ship lying within the territorial waters of Ascension.

Governor may appoint medical officers of health and other officers

3. (1) The Governor may from time to time appoint such medical officers of health, public health inspectors and other officers as may be necessary for the due execution of this Ordinance.

(2) Persons appointed under subsection (1) hold office during the Governor's pleasure.

PART II NUISANCES

Definition of nuisances

4. For the purposes of this Ordinance—

- (a) any premises in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health;
- (b) any pool, ditch, gutter, pavement, privy, urinal, cesspool or drain, so foul or in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health;
- (c) any animal so kept as to be a nuisance or injurious to health;
- (d) any accumulation or deposit which is a nuisance or injurious to health;
- (e) any house or part of a house so overcrowded as to be dangerous or injurious to the health of the inmates, whether or not members of the same family;
- (f) any mosquito larvæ or any collection of water in any place or about any building used for human habitation which is likely to harbour mosquito larvæ; and
- (g) any other matter so declared by regulations made by the Governor,

are deemed to be nuisances liable to be dealt with as provided by this Ordinance.

Information of nuisances may be given to Administrator

5. Information of any nuisance under this Ordinance may be given to the Administrator by any person aggrieved by the nuisance, or by a medical officer of health, or by a public health inspector, or by any police officer.

Administrator to serve notice requiring abatement of nuisance

6. On receipt of any information respecting the existence of a nuisance the Administrator must, if satisfied of the existence of a nuisance, serve notice upon the person by whose act, default or sufferance the nuisance arises or continues, requiring the person to abate the nuisance within a time specified in the notice and to execute such works and to do such things as are necessary for that purpose.

Enforcement of requirement of notice in event of non-compliance

7. (1) If the person upon whom a notice to abate a nuisance has been served makes default in complying with any of the requirements of it within the time specified, or if the nuisance although abated since the service of the notice is, in the opinion of the Administrator, likely to recur on the same premises, the Administrator must cause a complaint relating to the nuisance to be made before the Magistrates' Court and if it appears

to the court that the alleged nuisance exists, or that although abated it is likely to recur on the same premises, the court may make an order –

- (a) directing the person upon whom the notice to abate the nuisance has been served to comply with all or any of the requirements of the notice, or otherwise to abate the nuisance within a time specified in the order and to do any works necessary for that purpose;
- (b) prohibiting the recurrence of the nuisance and directing the execution of any works necessary to prevent the recurrence; or
- (c) both requiring abatement and prohibiting the recurrence of the nuisance.

(2) A person who fails to comply with an order of the court made under subsection (1) commits an offence, unless the person satisfies the court that the person has used all due diligence to carry out such order.

Penalty: A fine of £5, and in the case of a continuing offence a further fine of £1 for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(3) If a person fails to comply with an order of the court made under subsection (1) the Administrator may enter the premises to which the order relates and abate the nuisance and do whatever is necessary in execution of the order and recover the expenses incurred from the person on whom the order is made.

PART III INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Definition of infectious disease

8. In this Part, “**infectious disease**” means any disease listed in the Schedule to this Ordinance, and includes any other infectious disease to which this Part has been applied under section 9.

Governor may extend definition by order

9. (1) The Governor may by order declare that this Part applies to any infectious disease other than an infectious disease mentioned in the Schedule to this Ordinance.²

(2) Any such order may be permanent or temporary and, if temporary, the period during which it is to continue in force must be specified in it.

(3) Upon such an order coming into operation and during the continuance of it an infectious disease mentioned in the order is an infectious disease within the meaning of this Part.

Notification of infectious disease

² Part III extended to viral haemorrhagic fevers by Order published in Gazette Notice No. 128 of 29 October 2014

10. (1) If an inmate of any building used for human habitation is suffering from an infectious disease, the following persons –

- (a) the head of the family to which the inmate (“**the patient**”) belongs;
- (b) in the absence of the head - the nearest relatives of the patient present in the building or being in attendance on the patient;
- (c) if there is no such relative present - every person in charge of or in attendance on the patient;
- (d) if there is no such person - the occupier of the building,

must as soon as that person becomes aware that the patient is suffering from an infectious disease, send notice of it to a medical officer of health.

(2) Every person required by subsection (1) to give notice who fails to give such notice commits an offence, subject to subsection (3).
Penalty: A fine of £5.

(3) A person who is not required to give notice in the first instance, but only in default of some other person, does not commit an offence if the person satisfies the court that he or she had reasonable cause to suppose that notice had been duly given.

Cleansing and disinfection of infected premises

11. (1) If a medical officer of health is of the opinion that the cleansing and disinfecting of any house or part of it, and of any articles in it likely to retain infection, would tend to prevent or check infectious disease, the officer must give notice in writing to the occupier of the house or part, requiring the occupier to cleanse and disinfect the house or part and articles within a time specified in the notice.

(2) A person to whom notice is given under subsection (1) who fails to comply with it commits an offence..
Penalty: A fine of £5 for every day during which the person fails to comply with the notice.

(3) The Administrator must cause any house or part of a house and articles the subject of a conviction under subsection (2) to be cleansed and disinfected and may recover the expenses incurred from the occupier in the Magistrates’ Court.

Disinfection of bedding, etc.

12. (1) A medical officer of health may, by notice in writing, require the owner of any bedding, clothing or other articles which have been exposed to the infection of any infectious disease to cause them to be delivered over to a public health inspector or other officer duly authorised for the purpose by the Administrator for removal for the purpose of disinfection. The bedding, clothing and articles must be disinfected by the medical officer of health and be brought back and delivered to the owner free of charge.

(2) A person who fails to comply with the requirements of a notice given under subsection (1) commits an offence.
Penalty: A fine of £25.

Destruction of infected bedding, etc.

13. A medical officer of health may direct the destruction of any bedding, clothing or other articles that have been exposed to infection from any infectious disease.

Removal to hospital of infected persons

14. (1) A person suffering from an infectious disease who is in any house or premises where he or she cannot be effectually isolated so as to prevent the spread of the disease may be removed by direction of a medical officer of health to a hospital.

(2) A direction given in accordance with subsection (1) may be addressed to such public health inspector or other officer duly authorised for the purpose by the Administrator as the medical officer of health thinks expedient.

(3) A person who wilfully disobeys or obstructs the execution of any direction given under the provisions of subsection (1) commits an offence.
Penalty: A fine of £25.

Detention in hospital of infected persons without proper lodgings

15. (1) A medical officer of health on being satisfied that a person suffering from any infectious disease is in a hospital and would not on leaving the hospital be provided with lodging or accommodation in which proper precautions could be taken to prevent the spreading of the disease by such person, may –

- (a)* direct the person to be detained in the hospital during the time specified by the Officer; and
- (b)* extend the time as often as appears to the officer to be necessary for preventing the spread of the disease.

(2) A direction given in accordance with subsection (1) may be carried into execution by any public health inspector or by any police officer or by any officer of the hospital.

Penalty for exposure of infected persons or things

- 16. (1)** Subject to subsection (1), it is an offence for a person —
- (a)* while suffering from any infectious disease, to wilfully expose himself or herself without proper precautions against spreading the disease in any street, public place or shop;
 - (b)* being in charge of any person so suffering, to so expose such sufferer;
 - (c)* to give, lend, sell, transmit or expose without previous disinfection any bedding, clothing, rags or any other articles of any description which have been exposed to infection from any such disease; or
 - (d)* to expose or convey without proper precaution the body of any person who has died of any infectious disease.

Penalty: A fine of £25.

(2) No proceedings under this section may be taken against persons transmitting with proper precautions any bedding, clothing, rags or other articles for the purpose of having them.

Body of person dying of infectious disease in hospital, etc., to be removed only for burial

17. (1) If a person dies in a hospital or place of temporary accommodation of the sick from any infectious disease and a medical officer of health certifies that in his or her opinion it is desirable, in order to prevent the risk of communicating such disease or of spreading infection, that the body be not removed from such hospital or place except for the purpose of being forthwith buried, it is not lawful for any person to remove the body except for that purpose; and the body when taken out of such hospital or place must be forthwith taken to a place of burial.

(2) A person who removes a dead body contrary to subsection (1) commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £25.

(3) This section does not prevent the removal of a dead body from a hospital to a mortuary and such mortuary is, for the purposes of this section, deemed to be part of such hospital.

Prohibition of retention of corpse

18. (1) No person may, without the sanction in writing of a medical officer of health, retain unburied elsewhere than in a mortuary or in a room not used at the time as a dwelling place, sleeping place or work room, for more than 12 hours, the body of a person who has died from any infectious disease.

(2) A person who retains a dead body contrary to subsection (1) commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £25.

PART IV GENERAL

Unsound food

19. (1) A medical officer of health or a public health inspector may inspect any animal, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, butter, milk, meal, flour, rice, biscuit or other food, fresh, preserved or canned, or any spirituous or fermented liquor, which the officer or inspector has reason to believe is intended for sale as human food or to be used as such.

(2) If any food as aforesaid appears to the officer or inspector to be unwholesome or unfit for human food, he or she may seize the food and cause it to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the officer thinks expedient..

Importation of things likely to introduce disease

20. (1) The Governor may by order³ prohibit the landing or importation into Ascension of anything the importation of which the Governor has reason to believe would be likely to introduce disease into Ascension.

(2) A person who contravenes the provisions of an order made under subsection (1) commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £50.

Regulations

- 21. (1)** The Governor may make regulations—
- (a) for regulating the inspection and securing the cleanliness of bakehouses and slaughterhouses;
 - (b) for regulating the inspection and securing the cleanliness of aerated-water factories and ice factories and prescribing the precautions to be taken for protecting soda-water and other aerated drinks and ice against infection or contamination;
 - (c) for regulating the inspection and securing the cleanliness of dairies and prescribing the precautions to be taken for protecting milk and milk products against infection and contamination;
 - (d) prescribing precautions to be taken for protecting any article, whether solid or liquid, intended for the food of man against infection or contamination;
 - (e) with respect to the construction of pig-styes, the places in which they may be erected, and the mode of cleansing them at proper intervals so as to prevent them becoming a nuisance or dangerous to public health;
 - (f) defining any part of Ascension as an area within which horses, donkeys, mules, cattle, sheep, goats, swine or poultry may not be kept;
 - (g) declaring matters which are to be deemed to be nuisances for the purposes of Part II;
 - (h) for the treatment of persons affected by any epidemic, endemic or infectious disease and for the prevention of such diseases;
 - (i) prescribing penalties not exceeding a fine of £10,000 or imprisonment for a period of 6 months for a breach of such regulations or of any regulations made under subsection (2);
 - (j) generally, for carrying the provisions of this Ordinance into effect.

(2) Whenever any part of Ascension appears to be threatened with any epidemic, endemic or infectious disease, the Governor may make regulations for any such matters or things as appear advisable for the prevention or mitigation of such disease.

General power of entry for inspection of premises

22. For the purpose of carrying out any of the objects of this Ordinance or any regulations made under it, a medical officer of health or a public health inspector may –

- (a) enter in the day time after one hour's notice previously given into any dwelling house; and

³ *Gazette Notice No. 32 of 5 March 2018 published to prohibit importation and landing of ostrich products originating from South Africa*

- (b) enter at all reasonable hours, including all hours during which business in any premises is in progress or is usually carried on, any warehouse, store, shop, bakehouse, slaughterhouse, yard, lands or other premises whatsoever.

Penalty for obstruction

23. A person who wilfully obstructs any person acting under the authority of or in execution of this Ordinance or of any regulations made under it commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £25, and if the offence is a continuing one, a further fine of £1 for each day during which the offence continues.

Application of Ordinance to vessels, etc.

24. This Ordinance applies to every ship, vessel, boat, tent, van, shed or similar structure used for human habitation in like manner as nearly as may be as if it were a building.

Prosecution of offences

25. Offences against the provisions of this Ordinance or any regulations made under it may be prosecuted by a medical officer of health or by a public health inspector or by the most senior police officer on Ascension before the Magistrates' Court.

Protection of officers from personal liability

26. No matter or thing done by the Administrator, a medical officer of health, a public health inspector or by any person whomsoever acting under the direction of the Administrator, a medical officer of health or a public health inspector, if the matter or thing done is in good faith for the purpose of executing this Ordinance or any regulations made under it, subjects them or any of them personally to any action, liability, claim or demand whatsoever.

St Helena law to cease to apply

27. The Public Health Ordinance, 1939 of St Helena does not extend to Ascension.

SCHEDULE

(Section 8)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES⁴

Acute Poliomyelitis
Brucellosis (including Undulant Fever)
Chickenpox
Cholera

⁴ Part III extended to viral haemorrhagic fevers by Order published in Gazette Notice No. 128 of 29 October 2014

Diphtheria
Dysentery
Enteric Fevers
Food Poisoning
Infective Hepatitis
Measles
Relapsing Fever
Smallpox
Tuberculosis
Typhus
Venereal diseases
Yellow Fever

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1967

PUBLIC HEALTH (FOOD SAFETY) REGULATIONS, 2010
(Section 21)

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Food Safety) Regulations, 2010, and come into force on 1st April 2011.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise indicates—
- “**food**” means anything intended for sale, or sold, for human consumption and includes any live or dead animal or fish or part thereof and any other article used for food or drink by humans, or any other article which ordinarily enters into or is used in the composition or preparation of human food or flavouring matters and condiments, other than drugs or water;
- “**food business**” means any trade or business for the purposes of which any person engages in the handling of food, and includes the undertaking of a café, restaurant, catering business, the storage of food and ingredients, canteen, club, school, hospital or institution, whether carried out for profit or not;
- “**food premises**” means any premises, vehicle, stall, tent or place in, on or from which there is carried on any food business; and –
- (a) if food is prepared in a different place from where it is served, both places are deemed to be food premises;
 - (b) if food is served in a different place from where it is consumed, both places are deemed to be food premises;
- “**high risk foods**” include meat, cooked meat products such as gravy and stock, milk, cream, custard, egg, dairy products, poultry, fish, cooked rice and all foods which support the multiplication of disease producing organisms;
- “**shelf life**” means the length of time for which food may be stored without becoming unsuitable for consumption.

Food safety controls

- 3.** The proprietor of a food business must—
- (a) maintain the food premises, including the structure of such premises and all equipment used in them, in a clean, hygienic and pest free condition;
 - (b) protect all food from the risk of contamination at all stages including storage, transportation, packaging, preparation, cooking and sale;
 - (c) control the temperature of any high risk foods with chilled temperatures at or below 8°C, frozen food at or above -18°C and hot food at or above 63°C;
 - (d) maintain the cold chain from the point of importation until sale;
 - (e) ensure that all persons handling food in the food business and those responsible for supervision are trained with respect to personal hygiene, safe and hygienic food handling, pest control, protection of food from contamination and procedures regarding health and food poisoning;
 - (f) report any illnesses, including symptoms of food poisoning, suffered by any person handling food to a medical officer of health.

Labelling

- 4.** A proprietor of a food business must—
- (a) ensure that all food contains adequate labelling information including storage temperature, “use by” date for high risk foods and “best before” date for ambient foods at all times throughout any process of packaging and re-packaging and transportation including following any processes;
 - (b) ensure that all food imported contains labelling information referred to in paragraph (a);
 - (c) ensure that all food has sufficient shelf life remaining from when it is placed on sale until sale;
 - (d) not sell food after expiration of its “use by” date.

Powers

- 5. (1)** A public health inspector has responsibility for the enforcement of food safety controls, including port controls where reasonably practicable, and for this purpose may—
- (a) enter any food business premises at a reasonable time to carry out an inspection, take food samples and take any other steps necessary to comply with the food safety requirements;
 - (b) seize any food which is unfit for human consumption or if the “use by” date on any food has expired;
 - (c) investigate, in co-operation with the medical officer of health, any allegation of food poisoning.

Offences and penalties

- 6.** A person who—
- (a) fails to comply with any requirement of regulation 3 or 4; or
 - (b) obstructs a public health inspector acting in the execution of his or her duty,
- commits an offence.

Penalty: A fine of £10,000 or imprisonment for 6 months, or both.

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, 1967

**PUBLIC HEALTH (CORONAVIRUS)(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS)
REGULATIONS, 2022**
(Section 21(2))

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PART 1
PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Coronavirus)(Temporary Provisions) Regulations, 2022, and come into force on 17 April 2022.

Interpretation

2. (1) In these Regulations—
- “**aircraft**” means an aircraft making an inbound international voyage;
- “**Bahamas Agreement**” means the agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America Concerning the Extension of the Bahamas Long Range Proving Ground by the Establishment of Additional Sites in Ascension Island, done in Washington on 25 June 1956;
- “**biological sample**” includes a sample of a person’s respiratory secretions or blood, by appropriate means including by swabbing of the nasopharyngeal cavity;
- “**captain**” means the pilot in command of an aircraft making an inbound international voyage;
- “**Chief Immigration Officer**” means the person from time to time appointed to that role under section 13 of the Entry Control (Ascension) Ordinance, 2007;
- “**child**” means a person under the age of 18 years;
- “**Coronavirus**” means the virus known as “Wuhan novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (2019-nCoV)”;
- “**Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration**” means a document in the form from time to time prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation and as set out in Annex 9 to the International Health Regulations (2005);
- “**inbound international voyage**” means a journey by an aircraft or vessel which is bound for Ascension and for which the previous port of call was outside Ascension (including St Helena);
- “**infected area**” means any area (including a country) which the Administrator has declared, by notice published on the public notice board and on www.ascension.gov.ac, as an area where—
- (a) there is known or thought to be sustained human-to-human transmission of Coronavirus; or
 - (b) from which there is a high risk of importation of infection or contamination via travel from that area to Ascension;

“isolation” in relation to a person means the separation of that person from others in such a manner as to prevent infection or contamination (with Coronavirus), and which may take place—

- (a) in that person’s home;
- (b) in a hospital; or
- (c) at another suitable place;

“Magistrate” has the same meaning as in the Magistrate’s Court (Ascension) Ordinance, 1968

“Maritime Declaration of Health” means a document in the form set out in Annex 8 to the International Health Regulations (2005);

“master” means the officer in command of a vessel;

“public health officer” means a person appointed under regulation 3;

“public notice board” means the notice board outside the office of the Administrator;

“public place” means any premises or other place in Ascension which is open to the public, or to a section of the public;

“relevant authority” means—

- (a) in respect of an inbound aircraft, the Chief Immigration Officer;
- (b) in respect of an inbound vessel, the Harbour Master;

“reported person” means person to whom regulation 7(5) refers;

“responsible adult” means, in relation to a child, a person with parental responsibility for the child (within the meaning of the Children Welfare Ordinance, 2011), or a person who has custody or charge of the child for the time being;

“screening requirements” means the requirements set out in regulation 12;

“symptoms consistent with Coronavirus” means any one or more of a fever, a dry cough, or shortness of breath;

“vessel” means any vessel making an inbound international voyage.

(2) In these Regulations, a reference to infection or contamination, however expressed, is a reference to infection or contamination with Coronavirus, and related expressions are to be construed accordingly.

Public health officers

3. (1) For the purposes of these Regulations, the Administrator may, on the advice of the Senior Medical Officer, by notice in writing appoint such persons as public health officers as may be required.

(2) An appointment under sub-regulation (1) may—

- (a) permit the public health officer to perform only certain functions or to exercise only certain powers;
- (b) apply limitations and conditions to the functions and powers to which the public health officer is permitted to perform or exercise.

(3) Before appointing a person as a public health officer, the Administrator must be satisfied that the person to be appointed is competent to perform the functions and exercise the powers to which the appointment relates, but no court shall enquire into the Administrator’s decision in that regard.

(4) A person appointed as a public health officer must act in accordance with the advice and instructions given by the Senior Medical Officer.

- (5) The following persons are deemed to be appointed as public health officers:
- (a) medical practitioners;
 - (b) any person employed by the Ascension Island Government in the capacity of nurse, nursing sister or nursing team leader.

Senior Medical Officer may delegate

4. (1) The Senior Medical Officer may delegate to a medical practitioner any power in these Regulations that is expressed to be exercisable exclusively by the Senior Medical Officer.

(2) A delegation under sub-regulation (1) may be made orally or in writing, but an oral delegation must be confirmed in writing as soon as is reasonably practicable, and must include—

- (a) the date and time on which the delegation took or takes effect;
- (b) the powers to which it applies;
- (c) any limitation or conditions to which it is subject;
- (d) the period for which the delegation is valid.

(3) The omission from a written delegation of any of the information specified in sub-regulation (2)(b), (c), or (d) does not render the delegation invalid.

PART 2 INBOUND AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS

Duties of passengers and crew to report symptoms

5. (1) Any person (“P”) aboard an inbound international voyage who is suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the symptoms become apparent—

- (a) if P is a passenger, report that fact and confirm their identity to a crew member;
- (b) if P is a crew member, report that fact to the captain or master.

(2) Where P is a child, the obligation in sub-regulation (1) falls jointly on all responsible adults accompanying the child.

(3) Any crew member who receives a report of a passenger suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus must without delay report that fact to the captain or master, and provide the identity of the passenger.

Duties of captain and master during inbound international voyage

6. (1) The captain or master of an inbound international voyage must ensure that—

- (a) all crew members are briefed as to their obligations under regulation 5(1)(b) and (3) either before joining the aircraft or vessel, or in any event before the start of the voyage;
- (b) all passengers are informed of their obligations under regulation 5(1)(a) and (2) at the start of the voyage;

- (c) all passengers are thereafter reminded of their obligations under regulation 5(1)(a) and (2) on a regular basis and—
 - (i) in respect of an inbound aircraft, not less than one hour;
 - (ii) in respect of an inbound vessel, not less than three hours;
 before the aircraft or vessel is due to arrive in Ascension.

(2) The captain or master must instruct all crew members to make enquiries of passengers during the voyage as to whether any passenger is suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus, and that such enquiries must also be made immediately after, or as soon as reasonably practicable after,—

- (a) passengers are informed of their obligations in accordance with sub-regulation (1)(b); and
- (b) the reminder required by sub-regulation (1)(c)(i) or (ii), as the case may be.

Duty of captains and masters to report symptomatic and potentially contaminated persons

7. (1) The captain or master of an inbound international voyage must report to the relevant authority—

- (a) if there is one or more persons aboard reported to be suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus, the identity of any such persons and of any person who may be potentially contaminated by a symptomatic person (“**a positive report**”); or
- (b) if paragraph (a) does not apply, that there are no persons aboard reported to be suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus (“**a negative report**”).

(2) The report required under sub-regulation (1) must be made—

- (a) in the case of an inbound aircraft, not less than 30 minutes;
- (b) in the case of an inbound vessel, not less than two hours,

before the aircraft or vessel is due to arrive in Ascension, and may be made in the form of the Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration or a Maritime Declaration of Health.

(3) If, after having made a report in accordance with sub-regulation (1), the captain or master becomes aware of information which indicates that the report is no longer accurate, the captain or master must make a further report to the relevant authority before any passenger or crew member is permitted to disembark.

(4) In the event of a positive report, the relevant authority may request that the captain or master secures from the passengers or crew (or any group of passengers or crew specified by the relevant authority), prior to disembarkation, such further information as the relevant authority may specify, insofar as the captain or master is reasonably able to do so.

(5) The captain or master must inform any person (“P”) who is the subject of a positive report under this regulation (or, if P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P)—

- (a) that the authorities in Ascension have been, or will be, informed of P’s identity and alerted to the fact that P is either suffering from symptoms consistent with Coronavirus or is potentially contaminated; and
- (b) that P must not disembark on arrival until given permission to do so by or on behalf of the captain or master, or by a public health officer,

and such a person is a “reported person” for the purposes of this Part and Part 3.

(6) P remains a reported person for 14 days after P’s arrival in Ascension, or until P departs Ascension (whichever is sooner).

Permission required for disembarkation

8. (1) Except in an emergency, the captain or master must not permit any reported person (“P”) to disembark in Ascension unless—

- (a) the relevant authority informs the captain or master that P may be given permission to disembark; or
- (b) a public health officer has given P permission to disembark.

(2) P must not disembark until P (or if P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P) has been given permission to do so by or on behalf of the captain or master, or by a public health officer.

PART 3 ASSESSMENT, SCREENING, ISOLATION AND RESTRICTIONS

Persons in respect of whom powers may be exercised

9. (1) The powers in the following regulations may be exercised in respect of a person (“P”) where P falls into one or more of the categories in this regulation:

- (a) regulation 10 (Detention for the purposes of assessment and screening etc.);
- (b) regulation 11 (Assessment and screening);
- (c) regulation 13 (Compulsory isolation);
- (d) regulation 14 (Restrictions short of compulsory isolation).

(2) Category A is that P is a reported person.

(3) Category B is that P—

- (a) has arrived in Ascension on an inbound international voyage; and
- (b) has left, or a public health officer has reasonable grounds to suspect P has left, an infected area within the 14 day period immediately preceding the date of P’s arrival in Ascension.

(4) Category C is that a public health officer—

- (a) has reasonable grounds to suspect that P is, or may be, infected or contaminated with Coronavirus; and
- (b) considers that there is a risk that P might infect or contaminate others.

(5) Category D is that in the opinion of a medical practitioner—

- (a) P’s age or general state of health; and
 - (b) the prevailing conditions in Ascension,
- are such that P is likely to be at high risk of contracting Coronavirus, or at a high risk of medical complications if P were to do so.

Assessment and screening

Detention for the purposes of assessment and screening, etc.

10. (1) A public health officer may, for the purposes of assessment and screening under regulation 11, or for the purpose of the imposition of restrictions short of compulsory isolation under regulation 13, impose on a person (“P”) a requirement to be detained until the later of—

- (a) the end of the period of 48 hours beginning with the time from which P’s detention under this regulation begins;
- (b) such time as any screening requirements imposed on or in relation to P under regulation 11(2) have been complied with and the assessment referred to in that regulation carried out in relation to P;
- (c) such time as any restriction short of compulsory isolation has been imposed on P.

(2) Where P is detained under sub-regulation (1), a public health officer may require P to move to a suitable place.

Assessment and screening

11. (1) In relation to a person (“P”), a public health officer may carry out an assessment of—

- (a) whether P presents or could present a risk of infecting or contaminating others;
- (b) whether, in consequence of a P’s age or general state of health, P is at high risk of contracting Coronavirus, or at a high risk of medical complications if P were to do so.

(2) For the purpose of informing an assessment under sub-regulation (1), a public health officer may (orally or in writing) impose on or in relation to P one or more screening requirements.

Screening requirements

12. (1) For the purposes of these Regulations, the screening requirements on or in relation to a person (“P”) are requirements to the effect that P must—

- (a) answer questions about P’s health or other relevant circumstances (including travel history and information about other individuals with whom P may have had contact);
- (b) produce any documents which may assist a public health officer in assessing P’s health;
- (c) at such time and place as a public health officer may specify, allow a public health officer to take a biological sample of P or provide such a sample; and
- (d) provide sufficient information to enable P to be contacted immediately by a public health officer during such period as the public health officer may specify, where the public health officer considers that such provision of information is necessary in order to reduce or remove the risk of P infecting or contaminating others.

(2) Where P is a child and is accompanied by a responsible adult, the responsible adult must—

- (a) ensure that P answers questions in accordance with sub-regulation (1)(a);
- (b) answer the questions if P is unable to do so or cannot reliably do so;
- (c) produce any documents required under sub-regulation (1)(b) on P’s behalf;

- (d) allow a public health officer to take a biological sample of P or provide such a sample; and
- (e) provide information where required by a public health officer under sub-regulation (1)(d).

Compulsory isolation and restrictions short of compulsory isolation

Compulsory isolation

13. (1) The Senior Medical Officer may require P to be kept in compulsory isolation if condition A or B is met.

- (2)** Condition A is that the Senior Medical Officer—
- (a) has reasonable grounds to suspect that P is, or may be, infected or contaminated; and
 - (b) considers that it is necessary and proportionate to isolate P in order to reduce or remove the risk of P infecting or contaminating others.

- (3)** Condition B is that the Senior Medical Officer—
- (a) is of the opinion that P's age or general state of health, and the prevailing conditions in Ascension, are such that P is at high risk of contracting Coronavirus, or at a high risk of medical complications if P were to do so; and
 - (b) considers that it is necessary and proportionate to isolate P in order to reduce or remove the risk of P becoming infected or contaminated by others.

(4) Where sub-regulation (1) applies, the Senior Medical Officer may additionally impose on or in relation to P one or more screening requirements.

Restrictions short of compulsory isolation

14. (1) A public health officer may (orally or in writing) impose on or in relation to a person ("P") such restrictions short of compulsory isolation as the public health officer considers necessary and proportionate—

- (a) in respect of a person to whom regulation 9(2), 9(3) or 9(4) applies, in order to reduce or remove any risk of P infecting or contaminating others;
- (b) in respect of a person to whom regulation 9(5) applies, to protect P from the risk of infection or contamination by others.

(2) Restrictions that may be imposed under sub-regulation (1) include restrictions as to—

- (a) P's residence, including requiring P temporarily to live somewhere other than P's usual home;
- (b) P's travel within Ascension, including restrictions on the purposes for which journeys may be made;
- (c) P's access to specified public places or public places generally;
- (d) P's activities, including social activities and in relation to P's work;
- (e) P's contact with others (other than by means of telephone or the internet),

and may be subject to such conditions and exceptions as the public health officer considers necessary in the circumstances.

(3) Where sub-regulation (1) applies, the public health officer may additionally impose on or in relation to P one or more screening requirements.

(4) Restrictions and requirements imposed under this regulation may not be imposed for a period exceeding 14 days beginning with the day on which the restriction or requirement is first imposed unless—

- (a) P is a person to whom regulation 9(5) applies; or
- (b) there has been a material change of circumstances such that an extension is necessary and proportionate.

(5) A public health officer may (orally or in writing)—

- (a) vary any restriction or requirement imposed under this regulation; and
- (b) impose on P any additional restriction or requirement.

(6) Before imposing or varying a restriction or requirement under this regulation, a public health officer must—

- (a) inform P (or where P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P) of the restriction or requirement, or variation thereof, that the public health officer is minded to impose or make; and
- (b) have regard to any relevant representations by P (or, where P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P) as to its suitability.

(7) Where P is employed in Ascension and a public health officer proposes to impose or vary a restriction or requirement under this regulation in relation to P's work, or which is likely to affect P's work, then the public health officer must—

- (a) so far as is reasonably practicable, inform P's employer of the restriction or requirement that the public health officer is minded to impose, and
- (b) have regard to any relevant representations by P's employer as to its suitability.

(8) Where a restriction or requirement under this regulation is imposed on or in relation to a child, or varied in relation to a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to the child must secure that the child complies with the restriction or requirement, insofar as that person is reasonably able to do so.

(9) Where a public health officer orally imposes a restriction or requirement on P under this regulation, or orally varies such a requirement or restriction, the public health officer must provide P (or where P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P) with a written notification of the restriction or requirement that has been imposed or varied.

(10) A written notification issued under sub-regulation (9) must include a statement to the effect that it is a criminal offence for a person to fail without reasonable excuse to comply (or in respect of any responsible adult, to fail, without reasonable excuse, to secure that the child complies) with any restriction or requirement set out in it, but the absence of such a statement does not render the notice invalid.

Detention and isolation: additional provisions

15. (1) A public health officer must notify a person ("P") (or, where P is a child, a person who is a responsible adult in relation to P), of the information in sub-regulation (2) as soon as is reasonably practicable after—

- (a) P's detention under regulation 10 starts; or
 - (b) the Senior Medical Officer decides to keep P in compulsory isolation under regulation 13.
- (2) The information that must be provided in accordance with sub-regulation (1) is—
- (a) the fact of P's detention or compulsory isolation;
 - (b) the powers under which P is detained or kept in compulsory isolation;
 - (c) the reason for P's detention or compulsory isolation;
 - (d) the next steps that may be taken and by whom;
 - (e) in respect of compulsory isolation, the obligation to keep the need for P's compulsory isolation under review; and
 - (f) the penalty for—
 - (i) absconding, or attempting to abscond, from detention or isolation under regulation 23(1)(b);
 - (ii) providing false or misleading information intentionally or recklessly under regulation 25(1);
 - (iii) obstructing a person carrying out a function under these Regulations under regulation 25(2);

Detention and isolation etc: wellbeing and reviews

- 16.** (1) This regulation applies to a person ("P") whilst P is—
- (a) detained under regulation 10 or kept in compulsory isolation under regulation 13; or
 - (b) subjected to restrictions short of compulsory isolation under regulation 14.
- (2) The Administrator must have due regard to P's well-being.
- (3) Where P has been subject to a measure specified in sub-regulation (1) for a continuous period exceeding 14 days, the Administrator must review the continued application of that measure by reference to the provisions of the relevant regulation—
- (a) as soon as possible after the 14-day period has elapsed; and
 - (b) after each subsequent interval of 48 hours thereafter.

Detention and isolation: review by Magistrate

- 17.** (1) A person ("P") who is detained under regulation 10 or kept in compulsory isolation under regulation 13 may make an application to the Magistrate to determine the lawfulness of P's detention or isolation.
- (2) An application under this regulation must be determined—
- (a) promptly;
 - (b) on judicial review principles;
 - (c) without an oral hearing unless, in the opinion of the Magistrate, an oral hearing is necessary in the interests of justice.
- (3) Where an oral hearing takes place in accordance with sub-regulations (2)(c)—
- (a) the hearing may be held by means of a telephone conference or other similar means of electronic communication; and

(b) P is entitled to be represented by a legal advisor or other representative.

(4) When determining an application under this regulation, the Magistrate may either—

(a) dismiss the application, or

(b) make a declaration that the P's detention or compulsory isolation is unlawful.

(5) There is no right of review or appeal from the determination of an application under this regulation.

(6) The determination of application under this regulation does not prevent P from bringing a civil claim in respect of P's detention or compulsory isolation.

Requirements and restrictions: groups

18. (1) The powers in regulations 10, 11, 13 and 14 include powers to impose a requirement or restriction in relation to a group of persons.

(2) For those purposes the following regulations have effect as follows:

(a) in regulation 9(3), references to P are references to each person in the group;

(b) in regulation 9(4), references to P are references to each person in the group who has arrived on the same aircraft or vessel and left the same area;

(c) in regulation 10(1), the reference to "a person" is to be read in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), and the power to impose a requirement to be detained is to be read as a power to impose that requirement on any one or more of the persons in the group in question;

(d) in regulation 11(1), the reference to "a person" is to be read in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) and in the rest of that regulation, references to P are references to one or more of the persons in the group in question;

(e) in regulation 13(1), the reference to "a person" is to be read in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b) and in regulation 13(2), references to P are references to one or more of the persons in the group in question.

(f) in regulation 14(1), the reference to "a person" is to be read in accordance with paragraphs (a) and (b), and in the rest of that regulation, references to P are references to one or more of the persons in the group in question.

PART 4

EVENTS, GATHERINGS AND PUBLIC PLACES

Administrator's powers in respect of events, gatherings and public places

19. (1) Subject to sub-regulation (7), the Administrator may, on the advice of the Senior Medical Officer, by notice in writing and for such period as the Administrator considers necessary in the circumstances—

(a) impose a prohibition or restriction relating to the holding of a specific event or gathering, or events and gatherings generally, in all or any part of Ascension;

(b) direct that any premises or other place which is open to the public, or to a section of the public, be closed or that access to it be restricted;

- (c) impose any other measure concerning the use of public places as the Administrator considers necessary in all of the circumstances, including restrictions on the activities that may take place there and requirements in respect of hygiene;
- (d) impose restrictions on travel within Ascension including restrictions on the purposes for which journeys may be made.

(2) Before imposing a measure under sub-regulation (1), the Administrator must be satisfied that any such measure—

- (a) is necessary in the interests of public health;
- (b) is proportionate to the purpose that is sought to be achieved by imposing it; and
- (c) is to be imposed for no longer than is necessary for that purpose.

(3) Before issuing or varying a notice which includes a direction under sub-regulation (1) which relates to premises, the Administrator must—

- (a) inform the occupier or occupiers, (if any) of the premises of the closure, restriction or other measure that the Administrator is minded to impose, including its proposed duration; and
- (b) have regard to any relevant representations by the occupier or occupiers.

(4) The measures in a notice issued under sub-regulation (1) may be subject to such conditions and exceptions as the Administrator considers appropriate in the circumstances.

(5) A notice issued under sub-regulation (1)—

- (a) must state that failure, without reasonable excuse, to comply with the measures set out in it is a criminal offence;
- (b) must be published on the public notice board and communicated to the public by such other means as the Administrator considers appropriate in the circumstances;
- (c) where it relates to premises, must as soon as is reasonably practicable after it is issued—
 - (i) be affixed or otherwise displayed at any entrances to the premises; and
 - (ii) be provided to the occupier or occupiers (if any) of the premises.

(6) Where a notice issued under sub-regulation (1) relates to premises which are the subject of—

- (a) a business permit (or an exemption from the need to have a business permit); or
- (b) a land occupancy permit which permits business to be carried on there,

the Administrator must review the continued necessity of the closure or restriction imposed by it not less than once every 14 days.

(7) A notice issued under sub-paragraph (1) does not apply—

- (a) in respect of land or premises occupied by Her Majesty's armed forces, so as to prevent necessary operational activity, including movement between the land or premises, by—
 - (i) members of Her Majesty's armed forces;
 - (ii) contractors engaged by or on behalf of Her Majesty's armed forces;
 - (iii) persons in the service of the Crown in right of Her Majesty's Governments of the United Kingdom;
- (b) in respect of land or premises occupied pursuant to the Bahamas Agreement and which constitutes a "Site" within the meaning of Article IV of that Agreement, so

as to prevent necessary operational activity, including movement between the land or premises, by—

- (i) members of the United States armed forces;
- (ii) any other person employed by, or under contract with, the Government of the United States of America or a contractor of that Government.

PART 5 ENFORCEMENT AND OFFENCES

Police powers

Enforcement

20. (1) Where a requirement is imposed on a person (“P”) to be detained under regulation 10 or kept in compulsory isolation under regulation 13, a police officer may do any of the following:

- (a) take P to a suitable place, specified by a public health officer for P’s detention or compulsory isolation;
- (b) keep P in detention or compulsory isolation.

(2) Where P absconds from detention under regulation 10 or compulsory isolation imposed under regulation 13, a police officer may take P into custody and return P to the place of detention or compulsory isolation, or take P to another suitable place specified by a public health officer.

(3) Where a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that a P is in a public place in contravention of a restriction imposed on P under regulation 14(1), the police officer may do any of the following:

- (a) question P as to any restriction that has been imposed on P under regulation 14(1) and as to P’s presence in that place;
- (b) advise P as to the restriction in question and what it requires of P;
- (c) direct P to leave the public place (or, in the case of a child, direct any person who appears to the officer to be a responsible adult in relation to P to remove P from the public place);
- (d) if necessary, remove P from the public place to P’s home or other suitable place.

(4) Where a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that P is attending an event or gathering or is in any public place in contravention of a measure set out in a notice issued under regulation 19, the police officer may do any of the following:

- (a) if P is the driver or passenger of a conveyance, direct the driver to stop the conveyance;
- (b) question P as to P’s presence in that place or the purpose of P’s journey;
- (c) advise P as to the measure in question and what it requires of P;
- (d) direct P to leave the event or gathering, or to leave the public place (or, in the case of a child, direct a person who appears to the officer to be a responsible adult in relation to P to remove P from the event, gathering or public place);
- (c) if necessary, remove P from the event or gathering, or from the public place to P’s home or other suitable place.

(5) Where a police officer has reasonable grounds to suspect that an event or gathering is taking place or that a public place is being accessed in contravention of a measure set out in a notice issued under regulation 19, the police officer may—

- (a) in respect of a gathering or event,
 - (i) enter without a warrant any place where the event or gathering is suspected to be taking place, including a person's home, that the police officer would be permitted to enter with a warrant;
 - (ii) if necessary, direct any person at the event or gathering to disperse (save for the occupier or occupiers of any premises in which the event or gathering is taking place);
- (b) in respect of a public place—
 - (i) enter the public place without a warrant;
 - (ii) advise the occupier or occupiers (if any) as to the requirements of the relevant measure;
 - (iii) direct the occupier or occupiers (if any) to take such steps as the police officer considers necessary to bring about compliance with the relevant measure;
 - (iv) if necessary, direct any person in the public place to disperse (save for the occupier or occupiers).

(6) In sub-regulations (3) and (4), where P is a child, a power to question or advise may be exercised in respect of any person who appears to the officer to be a responsible adult in relation to P.

(7) A police officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of a power under this regulation.

Detention by a police officer to enable assessment and screening

21. (1) This regulation applies if a police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that—

- (a) a person (“P”) is, or may be, infected or contaminated;
- (b) there is a risk that P might infect or contaminate others; and
- (c) it is necessary to direct, remove or detain P in the interests of P or for the protection of other persons.

(2) A police officer may, for the purposes of assessment and screening under regulation 11—

- (a) direct P to go immediately to a hospital or other suitable place specified in the direction;
- (b) remove P to a hospital or other suitable place; or
- (c) if P is already at a hospital or other suitable place, keep P at that place or remove P to another hospital or other suitable place.

(3) The power in sub-regulation (2) may be exercised where P is at any place.

(4) For the purpose of exercising the power in sub-regulation (2), a police officer may enter without a warrant any place that the police officer would be permitted to enter with a warrant.

(5) Before exercising the power in sub-regulation (2) the police officer must—

- (a) so far as reasonably practicable, consult a public health officer and have due regard to the views of the public health officer and any information provided by the public health officer in relation to P; and
- (b) where it has not been possible for consultation to be carried out under paragraph (a)
 - (i) consult a public health officer as soon as reasonably practicable after the power in sub-regulation (2) has been exercised; and
 - (ii) have due regard to the views of the public health officer and any information provided by the public health officer in relation to P.

(6) A person removed to or kept in a hospital or other suitable place under this regulation may be detained there.

(7) A police officer or a public health officer or a person authorised by either of them for the purposes of this sub-regulation, may take a person detained in a hospital or other suitable place to another hospital or other suitable place.

(8) A person taken to a hospital or other suitable place under sub-regulation (7) may be detained there.

(9) A police officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of a power under this regulation.

(10) A person who is detained pursuant to this regulation may be detained for a total period not exceeding 24 hours from—

- (a) in a case where the person is removed to a hospital or other suitable place, the time when the person arrives at that place; or
- (b) in a case where the person is kept at a hospital or other suitable place, the time when the police officer decides to keep the person at that place.

Offences

Offences relating to Part 2 (Inbound aircraft and vessels)

22. (1) A person who fails to comply with an obligation under regulation 5 commits an offence.

(2) A person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with an obligation under regulation 6 commits an offence.

- (3) A person (“P”) commits an offence if P fails without reasonable excuse—
- (a) to provide a report in accordance with regulation 7(1);
 - (b) to provide a further report in accordance with regulation 7(3) when circumstances require;
 - (c) to provide such further information as the relevant authority may request in accordance with regulation 7(4).

(4) A person who without reasonable excuse permits a reported person to disembark in contravention of regulation 8(1) commits an offence.

(5) A person who without reasonable excuse disembarks otherwise than with permission, in contravention of regulation 8(2), commits an offence.

(6) An offence specified in—

(a) sub-regulation (1) is punishable by a fine not exceeding £1,000;

(b) sub-regulation (2), (3), (4) or (5) is punishable by a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Offences relating to Part 3 (Assessment, screening, isolation and restrictions)

23. (1) A person (“P”) commits an offence if P—

(a) fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a restriction or requirement imposed under regulation 10(1), 10(2), 11(2), 14(1) or 14(3);

(b) absconds, or attempts to abscond, from detention under regulation 10 or compulsory isolation under regulation 13.

(2) A responsible adult who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with regulation 12(2) or 14(8) commits an offence.

(3) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a direction given by a police officer under regulation 20(3) commits an offence.

(4) An offence specified in this regulation is punishable by a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Offences relating to Part 4 (Events, gatherings and public places)

24. (1) A person who without reasonable excuse contravenes the provisions of a notice issued under regulation 19(1) commits an offence.

(2) A person who without reasonable excuse fails to comply with a direction given by a police officer under regulation 20(4) or 20(5) commits an offence.

(3) An offence specified in this regulation is punishable by a fine not exceeding £5,000.

General offences

25. (1) A person who provides false or misleading information intentionally or recklessly to any person carrying out a function under these Regulations commits an offence.

(2) A person who obstructs, without reasonable excuse, any person carrying out a function under these Regulations commits an offence.

(3) An offence specified in this regulation is punishable by a fine not exceeding £5,000, or by imprisonment for six months, or both.

PART 6 FINAL PROVISIONS

Expiry

26. (1) These Regulations cease to have effect at the end of the period of four months from the date of commencement.

(2) This regulation does not affect the validity of anything done pursuant to these Regulations before they cease to have effect.
