

EXECUTIVE INSTRUMENT

E.I. 134

IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC) (NO. 9) INSTRUMENT, 2020

WHEREAS, by the Declaration of Public Health Emergency (Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 61), the Minister for Health, having recognised the threat of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic to life and health and its potential to escalate and cause danger to the life and health of people living in Ghana, exercised the powers conferred on the Minister under sections 169 and 170 of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851) and declared a public health emergency;

WHEREAS, in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and protect public health and public safety, the President, being satisfied that there existed circumstances, which required the imposition of certain restrictions, pursuant to subsection (1) of section 3 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012), issued the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E. I. 64);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 2) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 65), additional restrictions were imposed to contain and halt the spread of the virus within Ghana, especially in Accra, Tema, Kasoa and Kumasi, which were identified by the Ghana Health Service as hotspots of the infections;

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 5 (1) of the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 64), all borders of Ghana, by air, land and sea, were closed to human traffic for a period of two weeks, with effect from midnight on 22nd March, 2020, and subsequently extended, pursuant to paragraph 1 (1) of the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 7) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 109), until 31st May, 2020;

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 1 of the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 8) Instrument, 2020 (E.I 110), the restrictions imposed on public gatherings under paragraph 1 (1) (a) of the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 64) were extended until 31st May, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to protect public health and public safety, the President is satisfied that there is the need to review the restrictions imposed under the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 64).

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the power conferred on the President under subsection (1) of section 2 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012), this Instrument is made this 31st day of May, 2020.

Imposition of restrictions

1. (1) There is imposed, by this Instrument, restrictions on
 - (a) public gatherings including
 - (i) sporting events;
 - (ii) night clubs;
 - (iii) cinemas and movie houses;
 - (iv) drinking spots, pubs and bars including hotel bars;
 - (v) beaches;
 - (vi) festivals;
 - (vii) funerals;
 - (viii) political rallies; and
 - (ix) large religious gatherings such as crusades, pilgrimages and conventions; and
 - (b) travel to and from Ghana.
- (2) All public gatherings set out in paragraph 1 (1) (a) are suspended until 31st July, 2020.
- (3) All borders of Ghana, by air, land and sea are closed to human traffic.

- (4) Paragraph 1 (3) does not apply to
- (a) transportation of goods, supplies and cargo to and from Ghana;
 - (b) evacuation of Ghana residents stranded abroad; and
 - (c) exemptions granted by the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority.

Educational institutions

2. (1) Subject to paragraph 2 (2), all educational institutions including universities, other tertiary institutions, training institutions, senior high schools, junior high schools, primary schools, kindergartens, nurseries, crèches and Sunday schools in churches are closed.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph 2 (1), universities, other tertiary or training institutions, senior high schools and junior high schools may open and operate to accommodate the following students on the specified dates:

- (a) final year students in universities or other tertiary or training institutions may return on 15th June, 2020 to resume classes ahead of the conduct of their exit exams;
- (b) final year students in senior high schools may return on 22nd June, 2020 to resume classes ahead of the conduct of their exit exams;
- (c) gold track students in their second year of senior high school may return on 22nd June, 2020 to resume classes and complete their first semester coursework; and
- (d) final year students in junior high schools may return on 29th June, 2020 to resume classes ahead of the conduct of their exit exams.

(3) The Ministry of Education, and the heads of public and private institutions shall, prior to the return of the specified students, fumigate and disinfect their respective institutions.

(4) Upon the return of students to their educational institutions under paragraph 2 (2), there shall be

- (a) no more than half the class size in classes of final year students in universities or other tertiary or training institutions;
- (b) no more than twenty-five students in classes of final year students in senior high schools;
- (c) no more than thirty students in classes of final year students in junior high schools;
- (d) social distancing maintained between students, teaching and non-teaching staff, and among students, and teaching and non-teaching staff of the educational institutions;
- (e) strict compliance with enhanced hygiene protocols, including the provision of running water, hand washing soap, alcohol-based hand sanitisers and disinfectants; and
- (f) wearing of re-usable masks by students, teaching and non-teaching staff, provided by the Ministry of Education.

Religious bodies

3. (1) With effect from 5th June, 2020, churches, mosques or other religious bodies may hold abridged services provided that they

- (a) ensure that no more than twenty-five percent of the attendance of the church, mosque or other religious body, with a maximum number of one hundred congregants, shall be present at each service;
- (b) implement a mandatory one metre rule of social distancing between congregants;
- (c) ensure that each congregant wears a mask at all times in the church or mosque or other place of worship;
- (d) maintain a register of names and contact details of all congregants;
- (e) provide hand washing facilities and sanitisers for all persons; and

(f) limit the duration of each service to a maximum of one hour.

(2) Where a church, mosque or other religious body intends to open its premises to its members under paragraph 3 (1), the church, mosque or other religious body shall, prior to opening its premises, work with designated regulatory bodies to

(a) disinfect;

(b) fumigate;

(c) put in place the requisite logistics needed to guarantee safe opening and operation; and

(d) undertake dry test runs of the protocols specified in paragraph 4 (5).

Other bodies

4. (1) Subject to paragraphs 4 (5) *(a)*, *(b)*, *(d)* and *(e)*, a restaurant may provide seated service in addition to take-out and delivery services.

(2) A “chop-bar” may provide take-out and delivery services only.

(3) Paragraph 1 (1) *(a)* does not apply to the following public gatherings

(a) conferences;

(b) workshops;

(c) weddings;

(d) private burials;

(e) political activities; and

(f) individual training and non-contact sports.

(4) Subject to paragraph 4 (5), where there is an exemption under paragraph 4 (3), total attendance shall not exceed one hundred persons.

(5) The following protocols shall apply to all public gatherings exempted under paragraphs 3, 4 and 5

(a) social distancing between patrons and all staff, and among staff of the institution, facility or establishment;

- (b) strict compliance with enhanced hygiene protocols, including the provision of running water, hand washing soap, alcohol-based hand sanitisers and disinfectants;
- (c) wearing of masks by all patrons and staff of the institution, facility or establishment;
- (d) maintenance of a register of names and contact details of all patrons; and
- (e) use of well-ventilated venues.

Constitutional and statutory bodies

5. Paragraphs 1 (1) (a) and 4 (4) do not apply to constitutional or statutory bodies performing constitutional or statutory functions, provided, however, that they shall be required to maintain prescribed social distancing and hygiene protocols.

Enforcement of protocols

6. (1) For educational and training institutions, the Ministry of Education, heads of public and private educational and training institutions, shall ensure enforcement and strict adherence to all applicable protocols under this Instrument.

(2) For the public gatherings exempted under paragraph 4 (3), the owners and managers of public events facilities or establishments shall ensure enforcement and strict adherence to all applicable protocols under this Instrument.

(3) A designated regulatory body shall, with the assistance of the police, undertake random checks to ensure enforcement and compliance with all protocols under this Instrument.

(4) Without prejudice to section 6 of Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012), an institution, facility or establishment that fails to comply with the protocols under this Instrument may be closed down for non-compliance and the relevant sanctions shall be applied.

Contact tracing and testing

7. (1) A person, who has tested positive for COVID-19, shall provide all relevant information to the health authorities to enable contact tracing of persons who have come into contact with that person.

(2) A person, who is identified through contact tracing to have come into contact with an infected person shall be tested for COVID-19, and where the result of the test is positive, that person shall be taken to a designated medical isolation centre for treatment.

Duration of restriction

8. Subject to paragraph 10, a restriction imposed under paragraph 1 (1) (a) shall lapse on 31st July, 2020.

Geographic areas

9. This Instrument applies to the entire territory of Ghana.

Review of restrictions

10. Where the exigencies of the situation require, the duration of the restrictions specified under paragraph 1 may be varied in accordance with subsection (2) of section 4 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012).

Interpretation

11. In this Instrument, unless the context otherwise requires,
- “communicable disease” means an illness caused by a specific infectious agent or its toxic products which arises through transmission of that agent or its products from an infected person, animal, or inanimate reservoir to a susceptible host, either directly or indirectly through an intermediate plant or animal host, vector, or the inanimate environment;
 - “epidemic” means the rapid spread of a disease, including Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), cholera, flu and other communicable diseases, among people; and
 - “social distancing” includes maintaining a physical distance of one metre away from a person or avoiding direct contact with a person or object in public

place during an epidemic, to minimise exposure and reduce the transmission of infection and covers the following measures:

- (a) mandatory quarantine;
- (b) self-isolation;
- (c) protective self-separation; and
- (d) voluntary avoidance of crowded places.



NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO
President of the Republic of Ghana

Date of *Gazette* notification: 1st June, 2020.