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Part A

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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (COVID-19)  
CHURCHES (NO. 2) DIRECTIVE, 2020**

**WHEREAS** by paragraph 15 of the *Emergency Management (Covid-19) Order, 2020* (S.I. 2020 No. 16) it is provided that the Prime Minister on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer may issue a directive requiring every person within any area specified in the directive to remain indoors between such hours as may be specified;

**AND WHEREAS** a public health emergency exists in Barbados;

**NOW THEREFORE** by virtue of the power and the authority in me vested and on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer aforesaid I do hereby issue the following Directive.

1. The curfew imposed by the *Emergency Management (Covid-19) Churches (No. 7) Directive, 2020* applies to this Directive and this Directive shall be read and construed as one with the *Emergency Management (Covid-19) Curfew (No. 7) Directive, 2020*.
2. This Directive applies to all
  - (a) religious institutions however denominated and "church" shall be construed accordingly; and
  - (b) funeral services and wedding ceremonies.
3. All officiants however styled and all other persons, whilst within the precincts of a church shall comply with the following protocols:
  - (a) face masks shall be worn throughout the service by all persons present in the church, except a person who is officiating, preaching, singing, reading, praying or playing a wind instrument;

- (b) there shall be no physical contact between worshippers and officiants;
- (c) there shall be a physical distance of at least 6 feet between all persons attending church;
- (d) members of the same household may sit together;
- (e) sanitisation stations shall be set up at the entrances and exits of every church and such stations shall be manned by ushers or other persons who are administering sanitiser to the hands of worshippers;
- (f) all worshippers and officiants shall sanitise their hands upon entering the church;
- (g) the temperature of each worshipper and officiant shall be taken before entering the church using a contactless thermometer;
- (h) a person whose temperature exceeds 37.5° C shall not be allowed to enter the church;
- (i) a person who is coughing repeatedly, sneezing or exhibits any flu-like symptoms shall not be allowed to enter the church;
- (j) services shall be no longer than one and a half hours in duration;
- (k) air-conditioning may be used provided that some windows and doors shall be kept open or an air intake and extractor system used to allow for air transfer and air flow;
- (l) where possible microphones and cameras shall be manned by designated persons;

- (m) no hymnals or Bibles shall be distributed to worshippers but worshippers may take their own from home;
- (n) where prayer mats are used, worshippers shall take their own mats;
- (o) offerings shall be collected by use of fixed containers located at strategic points in the church and physical distancing protocols must be complied with when worshippers are placing offerings in the containers;
- (p) there shall be no separate children's face-to-face programme (e.g. Sunday School);
- (q) sacraments and rituals of the faith may be conducted, provided there is no physical contact, except between members of the same household;
- (r) persons engaged in choir or group practice or performance for or at worship or prayers shall adhere to the physical distancing protocol;
- (s) signage shall be placed in conspicuous locations outside and within every church and the officiant shall make announcements explaining the protocols to be followed before the commencement of every service;
- (t) where multiple services are held on the same day, at least one hour shall be allowed between services for a full sanitisation of the interior of the church, including all internal and external bathrooms, fixtures and equipment;
- (u) all bathrooms must be equipped with sufficient soap and paper towels or contactless hand dryers;

- (v) there shall be no congregating of worshippers inside or outside of the church, before or after service;
- (w) a record shall be kept of all persons who attend every service and shall be available for inspection by the Chief Medical Officer or his designated officer;
- (x) areas used by persons who become ill shall be closed for at least 24-hours and shall be thoroughly sanitised before use by others;
- (y) where possible volunteer health personnel should be present at services;
- (z) outdoor services are allowed and those present shall adhere to the physical distancing protocols;
- (aa) drive-in services are allowed and those present shall adhere to the physical distancing protocols, vehicles shall be parked 6 feet from each other and persons of the same household can be in the same vehicle;
- (bb) offices attached to churches may open to facilitate the work of the church and air-conditioning may be used; and
- (cc) every effort must be made to limit the number of people present in the office at any one time and masks shall be worn and physical distancing protocols shall be observed.

4. A person who contravenes this Directive without reasonable explanation, is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$50 000 or to imprisonment for a term of one year or to both, pursuant to paragraph 15(1) of the *Emergency Management (COVID-19) Order, 2020* (S.I. 2020 No. 16).
5. This Directive shall come into effect on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

Made by the Prime Minister this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

MIA AMOR MOTTLEY  
Prime Minister

