

EXECUTIVE INSTRUMENT

E.I. 37

IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC) (NO. 17) INSTRUMENT, 2021

WHEREAS, by the Declaration of Public Health Emergency Coronavirus Disease (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, the President, being satisfied that there was a need to continue to protect public health and safety, reviewed the restrictions imposed under the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 64) and issued new restrictions pursuant to the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 9) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 134);

WHEREAS, the President, being satisfied, after extensive consultations, took steps to return the nation gradually back to normalcy and, thus, reviewed the restrictions imposed under the Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 9) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 134), to begin the implementation of Phase Two of the easing of restrictions in certain sectors of national life;

WHEREAS, as of Friday, 29th January, 2021, the total number of active cases had more than doubled from one thousand, nine hundred (1,900) two weeks ago to five thousand, three hundred and fifty-eight (5,358), with active cases in all sixteen (16) regions; and

WHEREAS, the President is satisfied, after further extensive consultations, that to reduce the prevalence of the pandemic, and protect public health and public safety, there is the need to reimpose certain restrictions pursuant to section 3 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012).

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 1st day of February, 2021.

Imposition of Restrictions

1. (1) There is imposed by this Instrument, restrictions on public gatherings including

- (a) beaches;
- (b) festivals;
- (c) pubs and bars including hotel bars;
- (d) weddings;
- (e) funerals;
- (f) concerts and theatrical performances;
- (g) parties;
- (h) cinemas and movie houses;
- (i) nightclubs;
- (j) large political gatherings and rallies; and
- (k) large religious gatherings such as crusades, pilgrimages and conventions.

(2) All public gatherings set out in paragraph 1 (1) are suspended.

(3) All borders of Ghana, by land and sea, shall remain closed to human traffic.

- (4) Paragraph 1 (3) does not apply to
- (a) transportation of goods, supplies and cargo to and from Ghana; and
 - (b) evacuation of Ghana nationals and residents stranded abroad.

Exemptions

2. (1) Paragraph 1 (1) shall not apply to open air drinking spots, provided that the owners and managers of such drinking spots ensure that all protocols against COVID-19 issued by Government are observed strictly.

(2) Domestic air flights, taxis, tro-tros, buses and other commercial vehicles may operate with full capacity, provided that the operators shall ensure the wearing of masks by all passengers and the maintenance of enhanced hygiene protocols.

(3) Tourist sites and attractions may receive visitors, provided that the owners and managers of the tourist sites and attractions shall ensure social distancing between patrons and all staff, and, among staff, and shall ensure strict compliance with enhanced hygiene protocols and the wearing of masks by all patrons and staff.

(4) Despite paragraph 1 (1) (e), private burials may be carried out with not more than twenty-five (25) persons in attendance, who shall adhere strictly to all protocols against COVID-19 issued by Government.

(5) Restaurants shall provide take-away services and, where seated services are offered, the owners and managers of the restaurants shall ensure social distancing between patrons and all staff, and, among staff, and shall ensure strict compliance with enhanced hygiene protocols by all patrons and staff.

(6) The National Sports Authority and the Ghana Football Association shall ensure compliance with the twenty-five percent (25%) rule at all stadia with social distancing between spectators and the wearing of masks by all spectators.

(7) Conferences and workshops may be held, provided that the organisers of such conferences and workshops shall ensure that all participants adhere strictly to all protocols against COVID-19 issued by Government.

(8) All workplaces, public and private, must employ a shift-system for workers in addition to the use of virtual platforms for business or work.

Wearing of face masks

3. A person shall wear a face mask or any other face covering that covers his or her nose and mouth completely when that person is

- (a) in a public place; or
- (b) leaving or returning to his or her place of abode.

Religious bodies

4. Churches, mosques or other religious bodies may hold abridged services provided that they

- (a) limit the duration of each worship service to a maximum of two (2) hours;
- (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, mosque or other place of worship;
- (d) provide hand washing facilities and alcohol-based sanitisers for all persons;
- (e) maintain a register of names and contact details of all congregants; and
- (f) ensure that the church, mosque or other place of worship has fresh air ventilation, rather than relying on the use of air conditioners.

Geographic areas

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

Enforcement

6. (1) The regulatory agencies, with the assistance of the police, may undertake random checks to ensure enforcement and compliance with this Instrument.

(2) A person, who fails to comply with this Instrument, shall be subject to sanctions specified under section 6 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012).

Review

7. Where the exigencies of the situation require, the duration of the restrictions imposed by this Instrument may be varied in accordance with subsection (2) of section 4 of the Imposition of Restrictions Act, 2020 (Act 1012).

Repeal

8. The Imposition of Restrictions (Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic) (No. 16) Instrument, 2020 (E.I. 395) is hereby repealed.



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President of the Republic of Ghana