



Tuvalu

**THE MANAGEMENT AND
MINIMISATION OF THE IMPACT OF
CORONAVIRUS REGULATION 2020**

March 23, 2020



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Arrangement of Sections

	Page
Regulation	
1 Citation.....	5
PART 1- PRELIMINARY	5
2 Commencement	5
3 Interpretation.....	5
PART 2 - ADMINISTRATION	6
4 Establishment of a National Taskforce	6
5 Functions of the Taskforce.....	6
6 Sub-committees	7
PART 3 – BORDER CONTROL AND SECURITY	7
7 Closure of Borders	7
8 Conditions for entry of persons.....	8
9 Conditions for entry of ships	8
10 Health procedures at the airport and seaport.....	9
11 Condition for quarantine person	9
PART 4 - HEALTH AND QUARANTINE PROCEDURES	10
12 Preparedness and Response Plan	10
13 Designated Quarantine Areas	10
14 Restrictions to Quarantine Areas	11
PART 5 – FOOD SECURITY	11
15 Food Security	11
16 Use of Food Vouchers	11

PART 6 – PUBLIC MEETINGS, GATHERING AND ASSEMBLY	12
17 Restrictions of public meeting, gathering and assembly	12
PART 7 - CLOSURE OF SERVICES	12
18 Closure of schools	12
19 Closure of other services	13
PART 8- REPATRIATION AND RELOCATION	13
20 Repatriation	13
21 Relocation	13
PART 9 - PENALTIES	13
22 Penalty	13
PART 10 - MISCELLANEOUS	14
23 Official Press Release and Statements	14
24 Ministerial Directions and Orders	14
25 Publication of false information rumours etc.	14
26 Public awareness programme	15
27 Certain acts and behaviours prohibited	15
28 Exemption	15
29 Prevailing Provision	15
SCHEDULE	17
FORM 1	17



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MADE UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE EMERGENCIES AND THREATENED EMERGENCIES ACT

Commencement [23 March, 2020]

1 Citation

This Regulation may be cited as The Management and Minimisation of the Impact of Coronavirus Regulation 2020.

PART 1- PRELIMINARY

2 Commencement

This Regulation comes into effect on the date of publication.

3 Interpretation

“**authorized personnel**” for the purpose of Part 4 of this Regulations, means health and police officers;

“**basic amenities**” includes proper housing or accommodation and sanitary provisions;

“**basic commodities**” means any products listed in Notice issued by the Minister;

“**citizens**” means the citizens of Tuvalu by virtue of the Citizenship Act;

“**food voucher system**” means a system where retailers and wholesalers may only sell basic commodities to lawful holders of vouchers issued by the Government;

“**island**” means the island of domicile or of preference by any national with intent to relocate to during the period of emergency;

“**Minister**” shall mean the Prime Minister;

“**quarantine**” means to remain in isolation within the designated quarantine area for the duration regulated;

“**quarantine area**” means any building, premises, or area designated for quarantine purpose;

“**Ships**” for the purpose of these Regulations include boats and vessels;

“**supplies and necessities**” means access to food, running and drinking water and basic needs for the duration of quarantine;

“**Taskforce**” means the National COVID-19 Taskforce established under regulation.
4.

PART 2 - ADMINISTRATION

4 Establishment of a National Taskforce

- (1) A National COVID -19 Taskforce is hereby established.
- (2) The Taskforce shall comprise of the following:
 - (a) all members of Cabinet;
 - (b) all relevant border control agencies;
 - (c) enforcement agencies;
 - (d) non-governmental organizations;
 - (e) private and civil sectors;
 - (f) community leaders; and
 - (g) any other person determined by Minister.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Taskforce shall be the Prime Minister.
- (4) The Secretariat of the Taskforce shall be the Secretary of Government.

5 Functions of the Taskforce

The National Taskforce shall:

- (a) Develop a Preparedness and Response Plan;

- (b) Develop preventive measures and coordinate efforts at all levels to prevent COVID-19 from reaching Tuvalu;
- (c) Coordinate responses to any suspected cases, local transmission and outbreak in the country;
- (d) Advise all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of any latest COVID-19 information, risk assessments and all implementation measures prescribed under these Regulations and related protocols;
- (e) Provide information and awareness to the general public through radio, television, printed materials and other media platforms;
- (f) Provide a situation analysis of the current capacity of Tuvalu to address COVID-19;
- (g) Deliberate on the conditions necessary for the declaration of a State of emergency;
- (h) Receive reports under regulation 6(3) from sub-committees and delegate actions as recommended and agreed to by the Taskforce, and
- (i) Coordinate meetings to review the situation of the COVID-19; and
- (j) Any other task directed by the Minister.

6 Sub-committees

- (1) The Minister may establish any sub-committees under this Regulation to implement monitor and evaluate the provisions under this Regulation;
- (2) The Taskforce shall be responsible for the allocation of tasks of the sub-committees.
- (3) The sub-committees shall provide the Taskforce with:
 - (a) updates;
 - (b) reports; and
 - (c) evaluations.

PART 3 – BORDER CONTROL AND SECURITY

7 Closure of Borders

- (1) All national borders of Tuvalu shall be closed during period of emergency to any aircraft, vessel and ship.
- (2) Notwithstanding sub-paragraph (1), the Prime Minister may by Notice grant exemption on the following grounds;

- (a) provision of medical supplies;
- (b) provision of food supplies;
- (c) humanitarian assistance;
- (d) distribution of reliefs;
- (e) shipment of cargoes;
- (f) fuel supply; or
- (g) any other grounds in the interest of public.

8 Conditions for entry of persons

- (1) Any person exempted under regulation 7(2) shall be:
 - (a) subjected to 14 days quarantine;
 - (b) refused entry; or
 - (c) deported;
- (2) Any person who enters Tuvalu on special exemptions under regulation 7(2) shall be required to fill in the supplementary health forms and present it to the Environmental Health Officer at the port of entry.
- (3) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Regulation shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$2000 or imprisonment to a term not exceeding twelve months.

9 Conditions for entry of ships

- (1) Any ship exempted under regulation 7(2) must provide, through the shipping agent within 24 hours prior to arrival, the following information:
 - (a) places last visited by the ship in the last 14 days;
 - (b) number of crews, if any, who boarded the vessel within 14 days prior to entering Tuvalu;
 - (c) the ships last port of entry;
 - (d) any person with recent travel history to any high risk country; or
 - (e) any suspected cases of FLU-like symptoms on board during the voyage.
- (2) Any ship that fails to comply with these Regulations is not permitted to enter the port and is subject to a turn-around order by the Minister.
- (3) Any ship or shipping agent that fails to comply with the conditions of these Regulations and enters the Port commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$2000.

10 Health procedures at the airport and seaport

- (1) The Environmental Health Officer shall carry out the following standard Health procedures at the point of entry;
 - (a) check each Supplementary Health Form for COVID-19 is completed; and
 - (b) test each person using the Infrared handheld thermometer.
- (2) The medical doctor present at the airport shall comply with the protocol for quarantined non suspected person and quarantined suspected person.
- (3) The medical doctor and his designated team after screening shall;
 - (a) quarantine non suspected person in accordance with regulation 11(1); or
 - (b) quarantine suspected person in accordance with regulation 11(2).
- (4) Notwithstanding the provision under regulation 11, the Minister may provide direction otherwise.

11 Condition for quarantine person

- (1) Any person who is identified as a quarantined non suspected person shall comply with the following procedures;
 - (a) directed to the isolation area at the port of entry;
 - (b) transported to the designated quarantine area for non-suspected person;
 - (c) quarantined for a maximum of 14 days in the designated quarantine area; and
 - (d) subjected to Health Preparedness and Response measures under regulation 12.
- (2) Any person who is identified as quarantined suspected person shall comply with the following procedures;
 - (a) directed to the isolation area at the port of entry;
 - (b) transported to the designated quarantine area for suspected person;
 - (c) quarantined for a minimum of 14 days in the designated quarantine area; and
 - (d) subjected to Health Preparedness and Response measures under regulation 12.
- (3) A suspected person shall remain in the designated quarantine area and comply with all protection and preventive measures until such time as the person is declared safe to be discharged.
- (4) Any person who has been confirmed to be infected with the COVID-19 shall be subjected to:

- (a) isolation;
 - (b) further quarantine conditions directed by the Health Officer;
 - (c) medical reviews and checks;
 - (d) prohibitions directed by the Health Officer; or
 - (e) any other conditions directed by the Minister.
- (5) Any person who fails to comply with this Regulation commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to \$2000.

PART 4 - HEALTH AND QUARANTINE PROCEDURES

12 Preparedness and Response Plan

- (1) The Taskforce shall:
- (a) develop;
 - (b) coordinate; and
 - (c) implement
- all procedures as prescribed under the Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19.
- (2) The Minister may approve the Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 and any subsequent amendments.

13 Designated Quarantine Areas

- (1) The Minister may by order designate quarantine areas for the period of emergency to;
- (a) quarantine non suspected person;
 - (b) quarantine suspected person; and
 - (c) isolate any person confirmed to be infected by COVID-19.
- (2) The Taskforce shall provide the designated quarantine area with the following:
- (a) basic amenities suitable for quarantine;
 - (b) access to basic supplies and necessities for living; and
 - (c) any other reasonable goods and services as directed by the Minister in accordance with the advice of the Taskforce.

14 Restrictions to Quarantine Areas

- (1) Access to quarantine areas shall only be by authorized personnel;
- (2) Any person under quarantine shall:
 - (a) remain in the designated quarantine area;
 - (b) remain in the room when directed by the Health Officer;
 - (c) not have direct contact with any unauthorized person;
 - (d) take precaution to prevent the spread of or being infected by the COVID-19;
 - (e) exercise reasonable hygiene measures; and
 - (f) comply with any directions made by the Minister or authorized person.
- (3) Any unauthorized person shall remain 5 meters away from the fence of the quarantine area.
- (4) Any unauthorized person who enters the quarantine area shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of \$2000 or to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 year.

PART 5 – FOOD SECURITY

15 Food Security

- (1) The Minister may authorize any person to administer the following:
 - (a) provide measures to control and restrict the sale, supply and pricing system of basic commodities;
 - (b) management of the Food Voucher System and ensure that the system is implemented in a fair and equitable way; and
 - (e) provision of fortnightly reports of matters covered under this Part to the Taskforce for transparency purposes.
- (2) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this Regulation shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$2000 or imprisonment to a term not exceeding 1 year.

16 Use of Food Vouchers

- (1) The purchase, sale and supply of basic commodities shall be restricted through the use of food vouchers.
- (2) Each household shall:
 - (a) receive food vouchers;

- (b) only purchase basic commodities listed and quantified in the food voucher; and
 - (c) manage the proper use of basic commodities within a fortnight.
- (3) Notwithstanding sub-regulation 16(2), a household may purchase other commodities not listed in the food voucher.
 - (4) The retailers or wholesalers shall accept the food vouchers for the purchase of any basic commodities.
 - (5) The Taskforce, retailer and wholesalers shall cooperate to ensure the efficient management and rationing of basic commodities.
 - (6) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of these Regulations shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$2000 or imprisonment to a term not exceeding 1 year.

PART 6 – PUBLIC MEETINGS, GATHERING AND ASSEMBLY

17 Restrictions of public meeting, gathering and assembly

- (1) All public meetings, gathering and assembly during the period of emergency shall be prohibited.
- (2) The Minister may grant a permit for public meetings, gatherings and assembly with conditions as necessary during the period of emergency.
- (3) Any person may apply for exemption under sub-regulation 17(2).
- (4) An application made under sub-regulation 17(2) shall be in Form 1 under the Schedule.
- (5) The Minister may by Order grant exemptions to essential public services.
- (6) Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of these Regulations shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$2000 or imprisonment to a term not exceeding 1 year.

PART 7 - CLOSURE OF SERVICES

18 Closure of schools

- (1) All schools shall be closed during the period of emergency.
- (2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation 18(1), the Minister may by Order:
 - (a) permit the resumption of schools within the period of emergency; or
 - (b) establish a committee to coordinate home-school and related purposes.

19 Closure of other services

The Minister after consultation with the Taskforce may order the closure of other services and administration of business.

PART 8- REPATRIATION AND RELOCATION

20 Repatriation

- (1) The Taskforce shall be responsible for the repatriation and facilitation of citizens returning to Tuvalu during the period of emergency.
- (2) Any citizen who intends to return to Tuvalu may do so at his own expense.
- (3) A citizen who intends to return to Tuvalu may request assistance from the Government.
- (4) The Minister may approve financial assistance for the repatriation of its citizens.
- (5) The Minister acting in accordance with the advice of Taskforce may approve the repatriation of citizens.

21 Relocation

- (1) The Taskforce may facilitate the relocation of people during the period of emergency.
- (2) The Minister may by Order provide;
 - (a) measures for the compulsory relocation of people from Funafuti to their island;
 - (b) measures for the relocation of people within Funafuti;
 - (c) prohibition of movement of people from the outer island to Funafuti; or
 - (d) any other related matters as deem necessary.

PART 9 - PENALTIES

22 Penalty

Any person who is in contravention of these Regulations shall be liable upon conviction to a fine of \$2000 or imprisonment of a period not exceeding 1 year.

PART 10 - MISCELLANEOUS

23 Official Press Release and Statements

- (1) All official press releases and official statements shall be authorized by the Attorney General.
- (2) Any person who releases or causes to disseminate or publish official information or matters prejudicial to public security and statements without the authorization of the Attorney General may be:
 - (a) subject to disciplinary actions in the case of civil servants; or
 - (b) guilty of an offence.

24 Ministerial Directions and Orders

- (1) The Minister acting in accordance with the advice of the Taskforce may by Notice:
 - (a) issue directions and orders; or
 - (b) appoint any authorized person to issue direction and orders on his behalf;

for the proper implementation of these Regulations.

25 Publication of false information rumours etc.

Any person who —

- (a) maliciously fabricates; or
- (b) knowingly spreads; or
- (c) publishes whether by:
 - (i) writing
 - (ii) word of mouth; or
 - (iii) any other means,any false news;
- (d) makes false report tending to create or foster public alarm, public anxiety;
- (e) causes public detriment;
- (f) acts or is acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety;
- (g) disturbs the peace and good order of any part of Tuvalu; or
- (h) endeavours to disturb the public peace by inciting hatred or contempt of any class of persons,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine of \$2000 or to imprisonment for 1 year.

26 Public awareness programme

- (1) The Taskforce shall:
 - (a) provide continuous and timely public awareness to members of the public through any appropriate media outlet; and
 - (b) provide public awareness programme to persons with disability, children and other vulnerable members of the society.
- (2) The Taskforce shall ensure that the delivery of public awareness program is:
 - (a) inclusive of all population groups;
 - (b) delivered in different mode of medium; and
 - (c) delivered to all island communities.

27 Certain acts and behaviours prohibited

- (1) Any person who willfully or without reasonable excuse behaves or acts in a manner against the purpose of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) Any person who:
 - (a) interferes; or
 - (b) obstructs;with any authority or any person acting in the execution of these Regulations shall be guilty an offence.

28 Exemption

- (1) Any person may apply by letter to be exempted from any restriction under these Regulations.
- (2) The Minister after consultation with the Taskforce, may grant the exemption requested under sub-regulation (1).

29 Prevailing Provision

This Regulation shall prevail for the period of emergency.

SCHEDULE

FORM 1

(Regulation 17(4))

PART 1: PERSONAL DETAIL

Full name:

Age:

Address:

Contact:

Island Community:

PART 2: DETAILS OF PUBLIC MEETING, GATHERING AND ASSEMBLY

Purpose:

Place:

Duration:

Amount of people:

Focal/contact person:

PART 3: FEEDBACK BY THE TASKFORCE

Discuss possible conditions the Taskforce may recommend:

PART 4: RECOMMENDATION BY TASKFORCE

PART 5: AUTHORISATION

By the powers vested in me, I hereby **approve/decline** your application for a public gathering, meeting or assembly.

Conditions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Signed:.....

Date:.....