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**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (COVID-19)  
CHURCHES 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. 6) Directive, 2020* applies to this Directive and this Directive shall be read and construed as one with the *Emergency Management (Covid-19) Curfew (No. 6) 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;

- (b) there shall be no physical contact between worshippers and officiants;
- (c) there shall be a physical distance of at least six feet between all persons attending church;
- (d) members of the same household may sit together;
- (e) each worshipper shall have at least forty square feet of space for himself in the church unless they are members of the same household;
- (f) 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;
- (g) all worshippers and officiants shall sanitise their hands upon entering the church;
- (h) the temperature of each worshipper and minister shall be taken and recorded before entering the church using a contactless thermometer;
- (i) persons whose temperature exceed 37.5° C shall not be allowed to enter the church;
- (j) persons who are coughing repeatedly, sneezing or exhibit any flu-like symptoms shall not be allowed to enter the church;
- (k) services shall be no longer than one hour in duration;

- (l) no air-conditioning shall be used and windows and doors shall be kept open to allow for ventilation;
- (m) where possible microphones and cameras shall be manned by designated persons;
- (n) no hymnals, Bibles, leaflets or other materials shall be distributed to worshippers but worshipers may take their own;
- (o) where prayer mats are used, worshippers shall take their own mats;
- (p) 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;
- (q) there shall be no separate children's face-to-face programme (e.g. Sunday School);
- (r) there shall be no communion service involving worshippers, but where doctrine allows, the minister may take communion on behalf of the worshippers;
- (s) there shall be no rituals that involve touching, including baptism or christening, laying on of hands, anointing, confirmation, or dedication;
- (t) there shall be no choir during service, and no group practice or performance for or at worship or prayers;
- (u) special services to be attended only by persons 70 years of age or older are allowed;

- (v) signage shall be placed in conspicuous locations outside and within every church and the minister shall make announcements explaining the protocols to be followed before the commencement of every service;
- (w) 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;
- (x) all bathrooms must be equipped with sufficient soap and paper towels and contactless hand dryers;
- (y) there shall be no congregating of worshippers inside or outside of the church, before or after service;
- (z) 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;
- (aa) areas used by persons who become ill shall be closed for at least 24-hours and shall be thoroughly sanitised before use by others;
- (bb) where possible volunteer health personnel should be present at services;
- (cc) offices attached to churches may open to facilitate the work of the church. No air-conditioning shall be used; and
- (dd) 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. Notwithstanding any provision of this Directive, no person shall leave his residence unless he has with him, his Barbados Identification Card, his driving licence or his passport or some other means of picture identification.
5. Every person shall present one of the means of identification mentioned in paragraph 4 when requested to do so by a person in authority.
6. 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).
7. This Directive shall come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2020.

Made by the Prime Minister this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

MIA AMOR MOTTLEY  
Prime Minister

