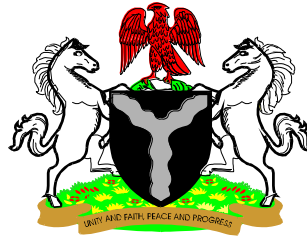


**NASARAWA STATE DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(EMERGENCY PREVENTION) REGULATIONS 2020**



Legal Notice No.....of 2020

31st day of March, 2020

PREAMBLE

Whereas the World Health Organization has designated Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as a pandemic spreading rapidly all over the world with devastating effect.

Whereas, on the 27th day of February, 2020, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Nigeria was identified in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Whereas there was a slow rise in number of people testing positive for COVID-19, with a spike in numbers beginning on the 18th Day of March, 2020.

Whereas, between the 13th day of March, 2020, and the 21st day of March, 2020, when the Nigerian international airspace was closed to landing of passenger flights into Nigeria, and in particular Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, a number of people flew back to Nigeria from COVID-19 high risk countries including USA, the UK, Italy and the Germany.

Whereas, it has turned out that a number of people returning to Nigeria in the period aforesaid have been exposed to COVID-19 with many not proven to have self-isolated and mingled with other residents in Nigeria.

Whereas the facilities and infrastructure for handling infectious diseases is severely limited in Nasarawa State and indeed the whole Federation.

Whereas, it has become imperative to stem the tide of the spread of COVID-19, save lives, reduce ill health and ensure that the fragile economy in which the people of Nasarawa State operate does not become weakened and stretched.

Now therefore, I, Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule, Governor of Nasarawa State, in the exercise of the plenitude of powers conferred on me in that regard by Public Health Law of Northern Region 1959, and in particular, by Section 8 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, (having regard to the provisions of Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004,) and further pursuant to all other enabling laws and powers in that regard, hereby, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), make the following Regulations for the good order, safety, security and public health of the people of Nasarawa State.

1. CITATION, COMMENCEMENT AND APPLICATION

(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Infectious Diseases (Emergency Prevention) Regulations 2020 and shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 2020.

(2) All acts done prior to the commencement of these Regulations to curtail the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) are valid and hereby ratified.

2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The terms below shall have the following meaning, for the purpose of these Regulations:

“**Child**” means a person under the age of 18;

"Coronavirus" means severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2);

"Coronavirus Disease" means COVID-19 (the official designation of the disease which is caused by coronavirus).

"Governor" means the Governor of Nasarawa State.

"Infected Area" means any country, territory or other area outside Nasarawa State which the Governor so designates as a country, territory or area -

(a) where there is known or thought to be sustained human-to-human transmission of COVID-19, or

(b) from which there is a high risk that COVID-19 will be transmitted to the Local Area.

"Permitted Essential Areas" means hospitals, pharmacies, medical and dental clinics, essential public utility offices, (like power, telecommunication, water, fire service, emergency and ambulance service, waste disposal and essential manufacturing companies), burial grounds, crematoriums, coffin makers, mortuaries, designated banks and financial institutions, and markets for sale of food items, drinks and essential commodities (other than as otherwise provided in these Regulations) as the Governor may from time to time designate;

"Potentially Infectious Person" means a person:

(a) who is, or may be, infected or contaminated with COVID-19, and there is a risk that the person might infect or contaminate others in the Local Area with COVID-19, or

(b) who has been in an Infected Area within 14 days preceding the arrival and entry into the Local Area.

"State" means Nasarawa State

3. PURPOSE

The Purpose of these Regulations is to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19 within the Local Area.

4. LOCAL AREA DECLARATION

The following as of the date hereof and until otherwise notified by the Governor in writing by way of an Order under the hand of the Governor, are hereby designated local areas –

- (a) all the Local Government Areas in Nasarawa State;
- (b) all Development Areas in Nasarawa State;
- (c) all the area, including roads, bridges, pathways, waterways or anyway howsoever surrounding and circling Nasarawa State;
- (d) all land, sea, lagoon, river and other entry points into Nasarawa State, within the meaning and intendment of Section 2 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

5. DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE DECLARATION

It is hereby declared that COVID-19 is a Dangerous Infectious Disease within the meaning and intendment of Section 2 of the Quarantine Act, Cap Q2 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and that it constitutes a serious and imminent threat to the public health of the people in the Local Area.

6. POWER OVER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS PERSONS

- (1) The Governor may direct that a Potentially Infectious Person within the Local Area shall immediately go to a place specified for screening and assessment.
- (2) The Governor may direct the removal of a Potentially Infectious Person, where such person fails or refuses to go to a place specified for screening and assessment.

- (3) The Governor may direct a Potentially Infectious Person within a Local Area, to go into isolation for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days.
- (4) For the purposes of sub-regulations (1) and (3), where the Potentially Infectious Person is a Child, the Governor may -
 - (a) direct the parent or guardian of the Child to take the Child immediately to a place specified for screening and assessment in compliance with sub-regulations (1);
 - (b) direct that the parent or guardian of the Child shall, so far as reasonably practicable, secure that the Child complies with any direction, instruction, requirement or restriction given to or imposed on the Child under sub-regulation (3).
- (5) Where the Child is not accompanied by a parent or guardian, the Governor may direct that —
 - (a) if practicable, the parent or guardian be notified before the powers under sub-regulations(1) and (3) are exercised, or
 - (b) if not practicable, a reasonable step be taken after the exercise of these powers to notify the parent or guardian of the Child.
- (6) Where the Potentially Infectious Person fails or refuses to go into or remain in isolation for the prescribed period, the Governor may direct the removal of such person to an isolation center within the Local Area and shall hold the person in an isolation centre for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days. Provided that:
 - (a) any cost incurred for the removal and isolation of the Potentially Infectious Person in an isolation centre within the Local Area, shall be borne by such person;

- (b) Where the Potentially Infectious Person is a Child, any cost incurred for the removal and isolation of such Child in an isolation centre within the Local Area, shall be borne by the parent or guardian of the Child.
- (7) The Governor shall make provision for the proper care of Potentially Infectious Person that has been placed in an isolation centre within the Local Area, as it deems necessary.

7. RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT

- (1) The Governor shall have power to restrict the movement for specified period in the first instance, within, into, or out of the Local Area or part of the Local Area, particularly, the movement of persons, vehicles, and watercraft/boats on waterways within the local area save for –
 - (a) transportation or movement of essential supplies such as food, water, pharmaceutical products, medical supplies and medicines, and any other essential supplies as the Governor may deem necessary;
 - (b) movement for the purposes of procuring essential supplies such as food, water, pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, and any other essential supplies as the Governor may deem necessary;
 - (c) movement of essential services personnel.
- (2) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) shall preclude the Governor from prescribing and restricting the hours and the days of the week when the movements within, into, or out of the Local Area may be allowed.

8. POWER RELATING TO EVENTS, GATHERINGS AND PREMISES

- (1) The Governor shall have the power to restrict or prohibit the gathering of persons in the Local Area such as conferences, meetings, festivals, private events, religious services, public visits, and such other events within the Local Area, subject always to the observance of the social distancing rule of at least a meter gap between each person.

Provided always that officers of the State or law enforcement agents may on the direction of the Governor, direct such gathering to disperse if the venue of the gathering cannot afford at least a meter gap between each person in that venue;

Provided further that the Governor may by order allow meeting of people within the Permitted Essential Areas as set out from time to time where such will be in the overall interest of public health and safety.

- (2) The Governor shall have the power to order the closure of all places of worship in particular, churches, mosques, chapels, praying squares in public spaces, praying places of temporary or make shift nature, shrines or any place howsoever described where people congregate from places other than their homes or offices or state or place of residence, within the Local Area, for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days or such other period as the Governor may by order proclaim.

- (3) The Governor shall have the power to order the closure of all places where drinks, fast food, snacks and cooked food are sold including, but not limited to eating or drinking joints, drinks sales distributor entertainment joints, hangouts, restaurants, eateries, cafeterias, coffee shops, bukas, bukateria, canteens, fast food chains, food on wheels, or any place for provision of eating and drinking at such place no matter howsoever described, within the Local Area, for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days or such other period as the Governor may by order proclaim.

Provided that this provision shall not apply where; such eating or drinking venue is offering only take away service in a manner that will permit observance of social distancing rules of at least a meter gap between each person, and the number of people in such place is no more than a total number of people that will allow distancing of no less than 1 meter space between each person in the venue, including workers in such venue and subject to the maximum number of two persons permitted under this Regulations;

- (4) The Governor shall have the power to order the closure of all places of entertainment, leisure, pleasure, sports, games, and other places, by whatever name called where people congregate in places other than their homes or offices or state or place of residence, within the Local Area, for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days or such other period as the Governor may by order proclaim.
- (5) The Governor shall have the power to order that with effect from the date proclaimed an odd and even numbering system of vehicular movement shall be observed in the Local Area, and remain so for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days or such other period as the Governor may by order proclaim, save for vehicles needed for essential services and going to or from the Permitted Essential Areas.
- (6) The Governor shall have the power to order that with effect from the date proclaimed, and for an initial period of fourteen days (14) days or such other period as the Governor may by order proclaim, all residents in or within the Local Area, are required to keep their immediate environment clean, safe and healthy and shall carry out such cleaning or sanitizing exercise as may be ordered with regard to any premises within the Local Area by any official of the Nasarawa State Ministry of Health, or Nasarawa State Environmental Protection Agency or Nasarawa State Waste

Management Agency or Nasarawa State Ministry of Environment, and any of the Local Government Councils in the State.

- (7) For the purposes of these Regulations, the Governor shall have the powers to direct relevant security agencies in the Local Area to breakup any gathering of persons in the Local Area, and may take into custody, persons in such gathering in breach of these Regulations, for the purpose of screening and assessment, and if necessary, for isolation in an isolation centre within the Local Area

Provided that any cost incurred in taking such person into custody for the purpose of screening and assessment, and to an isolation centre within the Local Area, shall be borne by such person.

9. POWER OVER CONDUCT OF TRADE, AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Save as otherwise provided in Paragraph 8 of this Regulations, the Governor shall have power to restrict in whole or in part; the conduct of trade, business and commercial activities within the Local Area, for such period as the Governor may by order proclaim.

10. CLOSURE OF PUBLIC, EDUCATIONAL, VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

The Governor shall have the power to order and hereby orders the closure of public, educational and vocational institutions within the Local Area, for such period as the Governor may by order proclaim.

11. POWER IN RELATION TO FOOD, DRUGS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SUPPLY CHAIN, HOARDING AND PRICE MANIPULATION

(1) The Governor may –

- (a) direct and hereby directs, that the prices of foods, drugs and other essential goods and services shall not be artificially inflated within the Local Area;

- (b) direct and hereby directs, that no person shall hoard foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area, or refuse to provide foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (2) It shall be an offence to artificially inflate the prices of foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (3) It shall be an offence to hoard foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area or refuse to provide foods, drugs and other essential goods and services within the Local Area.
- (4) Where a person breaches the directives under sub-regulation 1(a), the person shall be liable to pay a penalty of ten times the difference between the normal price of the foods, drugs and other essential goods and services, and the artificially inflated price of such foods, drugs and other essential goods and services.
- (5) Where a person breaches the directives under sub-Paragraphs (1) (a) and (b) of this Paragraph, the Governor may direct the seizure and forfeiture of the foods, drugs and other essential goods to the State, and may in addition, direct that such forfeited foods, drugs and other essential goods be utilized for the purposes of alleviating the supply needs in the Local Area.

12. TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF THE REMAINS OF PERSON INFECTED WITH COVID-19

Notwithstanding the provisions of any law in Nasarawa State, the Governor shall have power to specify the manner in which, and conditions subject to which the remains of any person infected with COVID-19 within the Local Area or outside the Local Area, shall be

transported, stored and disposed of, including the power to order cremation of the remains of such person within the Local Area.

13. SUSPENSION OF COURT PROCEEDINGS AND PROVISION FOR CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS VIA VIDEO LINK OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS

(1) The Governor may direct the Chief Judge of Nasarawa State, and other Heads of Courts in the Local Area, to suspend court, judicial proceedings or other quasi-judicial proceedings within the Local Area, for a period of fourteen days (14) days in the first instance.

Provided that such direction shall not apply to the hearing of matters relating to the constitutional right to life and liberty of any person within the Local Area.

(2) For matters relating to constitutional right to life and liberty of persons within the Local Area, the Chief Judge of Nasarawa State and other Heads of Court within the Local Area may order that;

(a) all proceedings are to be held via video conferencing or any other electronic means;

(b) a person may, take part in proceedings through a live audio link, a live video link; or any other electronic means.

14. POWER TO PROHIBIT THE TRANSMISSION OF FALSE INFORMATION

(1) The Governor shall have power to prohibit and hereby prohibits the transmission, or dissemination through a computer system or network or otherwise, of false information regarding COVID-19 within the Local Area and/or any circumstances related to or bordering on the outbreak or possible outbreak of COVID-19 within a Local Area.

(2) The Governor shall have power to prohibit and hereby prohibits persons from promoting unverified, untested, or unapproved cures, vaccines or other similar medicinal items

that purport to cure, alleviate or reduce instances of persons infected, or believed to be infected, with COVID-19 within the Local Area.

15. POWER TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATION

The Governor may direct medical practitioners and health workers within the Local Area to notify the Governor, through the Ministry of Health or any other health officer charged with such responsibility, of any person that presents the symptoms of COVID-19 within the Local Area.

16. OMNIBUS POWERS

- (1) The Governor may where he has reasonable grounds to believe that members of the public in the Local Area are threatened by the imminent risk of being infected or contaminated by COVID-19, and that there is a risk that unless restrictions are imposed, there might be further contamination and/or infection of other members of the public in the Local Area, impose restrictions or requirements as may be necessary to curtail the spread.
- (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of these Regulations, the Governor shall have power to issue directives and take all necessary actions to prevent, protect, control or contain the incidence or transmission of COVID-19 within the Local Area.
- (3) For the purposes of sub-regulation 2, such power may include:
 - (a) power to order any person within the Local Area to stay at home for such time as the Governor may deem necessary;
 - (b) power to deploy law enforcement officers to enforce directives relating to restriction of movement or access to public spaces; and
 - (c) power to construct and allocate spaces as isolation centers, sanitary stations and sanitary anchorages as may be

necessary;

- (d) power to temporarily take over possession of property for utilization as isolation centers, sanitary stations, sanitary anchorages or storage for pharmaceutical and medical equipment or other products within the Local Area, subject to the payment of adequate compensation.

17. EXERCISE OF THE POWERS OF THE GOVERNOR

- (1) All powers conferred on the Governor under these Regulations may be exercised by the Governor directly or through such other person(s) as the Governor may designate in that regard by an instrument in writing.
- (2) Save as otherwise provided in these Regulations, the powers conferred on the Governor under these Regulations may be exercised by way of an oral or written declaration, notices, orders, or any other medium as the Governor may deem necessary.

18. OFFENCES

- (1) Any person who –
 - (a) fails to comply with a restriction, prohibition or requirement imposed under these Regulations;
 - (b) obstructs any person carrying out its duties under these Regulations;shall be guilty of an offence under these Regulations and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of fifty thousand naira, or imprisonment for a term of six months or both such fine and imprisonment.
- ii. A person who is guilty of an offence under these Regulations but for which no punishment is specifically provided, shall be liable on conviction to a fine of fifty thousand naira, or imprisonment for a term of six months or both such fine and imprisonment.

19. POWERS TO ALTER, AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT REGULATIONS

The Governor may, by regulation make-

- (a) consequential alterations or amendments to these Regulations, and
- (b) Supplementary, incidental, transitional or saving provisions in addition to these Regulations as he considers appropriate.

Dated this day of March 2020

ENGR. ABDULLAHI A. SULE
GOVERNOR OF NASARAWA STATE