

Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (No. 2) (Amendment) Order, 2021 (No. 28)

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*Preamble*

WHEREAS Zimbabwe has received notification from the World Health Organisation of the prevalence in some countries of a highly infectious and lethal variants of the COVID-19 disease, namely: the alpha and delta variants of the disease:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT is hereby notified that the Minister of Health and Child Care has, in terms of section 8(1) of the Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Regulations, 2020 (published in Statutory Instrument 77 of 2020), made the following order—

1. This order may be cited as the Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (No. 2) (Amendment) Order, 2021 (No. 28).

2. The Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (No. 2) Order, 2020, published in Statutory Instrument 200 of 2020 (hereinafter called the principal order), is amended by the repeal of section 26C and the substitution of the following—

*“Persons entering Zimbabwe from neighbouring and other countries*

26C (1) In this section—

“COVID-19 infection hotspot” or “hotspot” has the meaning given to it by section 26E (“Partial reversion to Level IV national lockdown”), being in particular a country notified to Zimbabwe by WHO as a country where a COVID-19 variant of concern is prevalent or on the increase;

“COVID-19 variant of concern” means the alpha and delta variants of the COVID-19 disease and any other variants of concern classified and notified as such from time to time by World Health Organisation, and

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deemed by the Minister to be an imminent or actual threat to the health of Zimbabweans;

“persons entering Zimbabwe” means travellers or tourists to Zimbabwe, but does not include the following who continue to be bound by the provisions of this order applicable to them—

- (a) returning citizens or residents of Zimbabwe; and
- (b) persons referred to in section 8(1)(i); and
- (c) a national or ordinary resident of a SADC country in transit through Zimbabwe to another SADC country.

(however, if the persons referred to in paragraph (a) or (c) arrived from a COVID-19 infection hotspot or transited through such hotspot in the course of their journey to Zimbabwe, they shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (5)(d)(i) of this section).

(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this order, for an indefinite period from the promulgation of this section, all persons entering Zimbabwe must undergo a valid COVID-19 PCR test not more than 48 hours from the time of their departure for Zimbabwe.

(3) A returning citizen or resident of Zimbabwe—

- (a) who does not have a valid PCR test and a certificate to that effect shall be quarantined for 10 days at a designated hotel or other designated place of quarantine at his or her own expense, after which he or she may be released from quarantine after being found to be negative for COVID-19 after retesting;
- (b) with proof of a valid PCR negative certificate shall self-quarantine at home for a period of 10 days from date of arrival into the country.

(4) An enforcement officer may, in his or her discretion, administer at the test subject’s expense, a PCR COVID-19 test to

any person entering or exiting Zimbabwe, including any person referred to in paragraph (a) or (c) of the definition of “persons entering Zimbabwe.

- (5) A person entering Zimbabwe—
  - (a) who does not have a valid PCR test and a certificate to that effect shall be denied entry into Zimbabwe;
  - (b) who does not have a valid PCR test and a certificate to that effect but who is a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (c) of the definition of “persons entering Zimbabwe” who has arrived from a COVID-19 infection hotspot or transited through such hotspot in the course of their journey to Zimbabwe, shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (d)(i);
  - (c) who, being a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (c) of the definition of “persons entering Zimbabwe”, has a valid PCR test and a certificate to that effect but who has arrived from a COVID-19 infection hotspot or transited through such hotspot in the course of their journey to Zimbabwe, shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (d)(i);
  - (d) with proof of a valid PCR negative certificate shall, if he or she—
    - (i) has arrived from a COVID-19 infection hotspot or transited through such hotspot in the course of their journey to Zimbabwe, be quarantined at his or her expense at a hotel or other designated place of quarantine, and submit to being retested (at his or her own expense) for COVID-19 within the first 48 hours of arrival, and on the third, fifth and tenth days of quarantine, and if—
      - A. found to be positive be taken to an isolation centre at the direction of an enforcement officer (and all reasonable expenses associated with the isolation shall be borne by the isolated person); or

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- B. found to be negative, be quarantined in a hotel (designated for the purpose by an enforcement officer) at his or her own expense, for a period of 10 days from date of arrival in Zimbabwe (at the end of which period he or she shall submit to being retested for COVID-19 at his or her own expense by or at the direction of an enforcement officer); or
  - (ii) has not arrived from a COVID-19 infection hotspot or transited through such hotspot in the course of their journey to Zimbabwe, be admitted into Zimbabwe for the purpose for which he or she is permitted to enter Zimbabwe.”.
3. Sections 26E (“Partial reversion to Level IV national lockdown”) of the principal order is amended—
- (a) in subsection (1) by the repeal of the definition of “COVID-19 infection hotspot” or “hotspot” and the substitution of—
    - “COVID-19 infection hotspot” or “hotspot” means—
    - (a) any district or other locality that is subject to a special lockdown referred to in section 26F, or declared as a hotspot by the Minister by means of a COVID-19 infection hotspot order made under subsection (3);
    - (b) any SADC country (other than the Republic of South Africa) declared by the Minister by means of a COVID-19 infection hotspot order made under subsection (3) to be a hotspot for the purpose of this section.”.
  - (b) in subsection (2) by the deletion of “27th June, 2021” and the substitution of “11th July, 2021”;
  - (c) in subsection (3) by the insertion of the following proviso thereto—

“Provided that if such an order relates to a district of Zimbabwe, such order—

- (i) shall be deemed to incorporate all the restrictions and other provisions specified for districts mentioned in section 26F (“Special lockdowns of Hurungwe, Kariba, Kwekwe and Makonde Districts”), subject to such variations, omissions and additions as the Minister may specify in the order; and
- (ii) shall have effect in accordance with its terms immediately upon its issuance and for fourteen days thereafter, whereupon it shall expire unless its terms have earlier been incorporated by way of an amendment to section 26F (“Special lockdowns of Hurungwe, Kariba, Kwekwe and Makonde Districts”) relating to the district in question.”

4. Sections 26F (“Special lockdowns of Hurungwe, Kariba, Kwekwe and Makonde Districts”)(2) of the principal order is amended by the deletion of “27th June, 2021” and the substitution of “11th July, 2021”.

