

BELIZE PRESS OFFICE

•Phone: 822-0094 or 0092

•Fax: 822-2671

• website: <u>www.belize.gov.bz</u>

PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 - Alert Regarding Border Closures

Belmopan. March 22, 2020. The Government of Belize reminds the public that Belize's borders are closed for entry. Belizeans are being strongly advised against leaving the country, unless it is a case of bona fide emergency. This is being advised for the safety of all.

What do border closures mean? Belizeans, please stay in Belize.

Kindly take note of the border closures below:

• Western Border – Closed.

Travellers:

Belizeans, diplomats residing in Belize, and foreigners with legal residency in Belize are allowed to enter. Please be aware that those seeking entry to Belize may be subject to a period of 14 days in quarantine to prevent the possible transmission of COVID-19. Guatemalan nationals can depart from Belize to return to their home country.

Cargo:

No restrictions have been placed on incoming or outgoing freight and cargo.

• Northern Border - Closed.

Travellers:

Belizean nationals, diplomats residing in Belize, and foreigners with legal residency may enter Belize. Please be aware that those seeking entry to Belize may be subject to a period of 14 days in quarantine to prevent the possible transmission of COVID-19.

Cargo:

No restrictions have been placed on incoming or outgoing freight and cargo.

• Southern Border – Closed.

Travellers: Belizeans, diplomats residing in Belize, and foreigners with legal residency may enter Belize. Those allowed to return are asked to take seriously the instructions to isolate themselves for 14 days to prevent possible transmission of COVID-19.

• Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport. Belizeans are not allowed to leave Belize.

Travellers:

From Monday, 23rd March 2020, the airport will be closed for entry after the last scheduled flight departs.

Cargo:

No restrictions have been placed on incoming or outgoing freight and cargo.

• Belize Seaports

No restrictions have been placed on incoming or outgoing freight and cargo.

The Government emphasizes that Belizeans remain calm; fear is the most dangerous contagion. The most effective action each Belizean can take to secure the safety of themselves, their families and the country is to follow the hygiene rules. Washing hands with soap and water, using a sanitizer if necessary, covering a cough or sneeze, trying not to touch the eyes, nose or mouth, and immediately of tissues if used to cover a cough or sneeze.

Remember to stay updated on official information concerning COVID-19. Visit the Government of Belize Press Office website at <u>www.pressoffice.bz</u>; or the Facebook pages for the Ministry of Health, the Director of Health Services, and the Government of Belize Press Office; or call the Ministry of Health's hotline at 0-800-MOH-CARE.

Ends