

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



**RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE PURSUANT TO SECTION 20(5) OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA EXTENDING THE STATE OF
PUBLIC EMERGENCY STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2021**

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT
2021, No. 88**

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*Resolution of the Legislature Pursuant to Section 20(5) of
the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda Extending the
State of Public Emergency.*

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STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 2021

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WHEREAS there continues to be in force a State of Public Emergency within the State of Antigua and Barbuda aimed at the protection of the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and of visitors from the spread of the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) which State of Public Emergency in accordance with the Resolution last made in this Parliament was extended to the 27th day of September, 2021;

AND WHEREAS Section 20 subsection (5) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda provides that –

“A resolution of a House of Parliament passed for the purposes of this section shall remain in force for three months or such shorter period as may be specified therein:
Provided that any such resolution may be extended from time to time by a further such resolution each extension not exceeding three months from the date of the resolution effecting the extension and any such resolution may be revoked at any time by a resolution of that House.”

AND WHEREAS the Government of Antigua and Barbuda recognizes the extreme hardship that has been caused by and which continues to be from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic; the pain and anguish to families due to the untimely and unnecessary loss of loved ones; the tremendous economic dislocations, social disruptions and psychological trauma;

REALISING THAT that the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) represents an existential threat to the people, lives and livelihood of Antigua and Barbuda and that the overwhelming epidemiological situation at this time requires that every effort be made by the entire nation, private sector, public sector and civil society to defeat the Covid-19 virus and help to restore this country to some form of normalcy;

HAVING DETERMINED THAT the policy of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on the management of Covid-19 which is attached as a Schedule to this Resolution is necessary to control, if not arrest, the spread of the dangerous infectious disease COVID-19;

REMAINING CONFIDENT THAT the success of these various measures to control the spread of the dangerous infectious disease COVID-19 requires that the State of Public Emergency be continued for a further period of three months unless sooner revoked by a Resolution of the Parliament

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Parliament in accordance with Section 20 subsection (5) of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda HEREBY EXTENDS the State of Public Emergency for a further ninety (90) days or until the 27th day of December, 2021.

Passed by the House of Representatives
this day 23rd of September, 2021.

Passed by the Senate this 27th day of September
, 2021.

Gerald Watt, Q.C.,
Speaker.

Alicia Williams Grant,
President.

A. Peters
Clerk to the House of Representatives

A. Peters
Clerk to the Senate.

SCHEDULE

POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Policy on the management of Covid-19

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda has directed that:

1. With effect from 20th September, 2021 –

- all unvaccinated government employees to include the Public Service, Statutory Corporations and companies in which the government owns majority shares shall be required to remain at home until proof of vaccination is provided.

- beaches to be closed between 5:00 pm and 5:00 am Mondays to Fridays; and 12:00 noon to 5:00am on Saturday and Sunday;

- all excursions around the coastal waters of Antigua and Barbuda, pleasure craft fetes, parties and other entertainment events and excursions to the off-shore islands in and around the waters of

Antigua and Barbuda are prohibited until 1st October, 2021. Thereafter, only authorized excursion will be permitted by the appropriate authorities;

2. With effect from 1st October, 2021 the following measures shall take effect:

- All employees in the Public Service, Statutory Corporations and companies of which the government holds majority shares that are unvaccinated or who may have received one dose of a two-dose vaccine in excess of three (3) months prior to this policy coming into effect, shall be required to remain at home, without pay, until the employee is able to provide proof of having received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine or of having received the second dose of a two-dose vaccine where the first dose was administered more than three months prior.
- No employee in the Public Service, in Statutory Corporations and companies of which the government holds majority shares shall be paid a salary or wage for the period of non-compliance with the current policy;
- All officers and support staff of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, the Office of National Drugs and Money laundering Control Policy, Immigration Department, Customs and Excise Division and Port Authority are required to be vaccinated;
- All teachers and students over the age of twelve (12) years shall be required to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to return to face to face classes;
- All pre-school and primary school teachers shall be required to be fully vaccinated before returning to face-to-face classes;
- Notwithstanding the vaccination status of teachers and students, the Ministry of Education, after consultation with the Ministry of Health, shall determine whether face to face instructions are to be permitted at any school based on the epidemiological conditions existing in the country.
- All caregivers and support staff are required to be fully vaccinated to provide services at elderly care facilities, except as provided in this policy;
- All arriving passengers including returning nationals and residents are required to have received at least the first dose of a vaccine approved by the appropriate authorities in Antigua and Barbuda;
- informal/public gatherings to be restricted to members of the same household;
- beaches to be closed between 5:00 pm and 5:00 am Mondays to Fridays; and 12:00 noon to 5:00am on Saturday and Sunday;

- Bus drivers, conductors and taxi drivers are required to be vaccinated effective 1st October, 2021;
- Failure to comply with the current policy will result in restrictions to operate;
- All Vendors, merchants and service providers and staff operating at the ports of entry are required to be vaccinated;

The following persons may be exempt from the above policy –

- persons submitting a medical exemption certificate in a form prescribed by the Chief Medical Officer and

signed by a registered Medical Practitioner;

- persons submitting a religious exemption certificate as approved by the Board;
- Authorized Remote Workers (Public Sector, Statutory Corporations and companies with majority government ownership);
- Persons who tested positive for Covid-19 within a period of 90 days prior to the policy coming into effect are exempted until the period of 90 days has passed since they were declared free of the virus; thereafter, they shall be required to comply with this policy;
- Minor children (below 18 years of age) arriving at a port of entry in Antigua and Barbuda;
- Given the overwhelming epidemiological situation at this time employees of the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, the Community Clinics, Fiennes Institute, Care Project, and the Emergency Medical Services (EMT) are exempt from this policy for this period;

All persons exempted under this policy are required to produce a negative Covid-19 test to their respective Permanent Secretary or Head of Department or the Board of the Corporation once in every 14 day period starting on the 1st October, 2021;

The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda recognizes the extreme hardship caused by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic along with the pain and anguish of families due to untimely and unnecessary loss of loved ones. It has caused tremendous economic dislocations, social disruptions and psychological trauma.

The government acknowledges the enormous commitment and sacrifices made the nation's healthcare professionals and by extension all workers who lock arms daily in a colossal effort and determination to defeat the Covid-19 virus and help to restore this country to some form of

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State of Emergency*

normalcy. Covid-19 represents an existential threat and the government calls on entire nation, private sector and public sector and civil society to lend support in this endeavour by adopting polices and promoting policies to arrest the effects of this deadly virus.